

## Japan to act to boost dollar

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita said Monday the U.S. dollar's decline against the Japanese yen was excessive, and Japan would intervene "as necessary" in support of the U.S. currency. Mr. Takeshita spoke at a news conference after the dollar set its eighth post-World War II record low against the yen in 14 Tokyo trading days, closing Monday at 160.20 yen, down 2.65 yen from Friday's closing. The dollar has lost 15.65 yen in those 14 days (See page 7). Mr. Takeshita did not specify at what level the Japanese government hoped to hold the dollar-yen exchange rate, but described the current level as "not desirable." He said "a stable market is the most important thing of all," and that he was considering "all possibilities." He did not elaborate.

# Jordan Times

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## Arab League chief arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Chadli Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League, arrived here on Monday for a three-day visit aimed at boosting the league's status in the Soviet Union. Middle East sources said. Although no details of his itinerary were immediately available, the sources said Mr. Klibi would meet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Tuesday and possibly Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev later. The league has a bureau in Washington and will be pressing to open one in Moscow, they said. Last month's U.S. raids on Libya are likely to be top of his agenda, although the sources said increased tension between Israel and Syria, the Gulf war and the Palestinian question would also be discussed. Soon after the April 15 raids, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi called for an Arab League summit but foreign ministers could not agree on an agenda.

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## Bridge closures announced

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Hussein and Prince Mohammad Bridges across the River Jordan will be partly closed for travellers to the East and West Banks on Tuesday, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). It said in a statement that only 300 travellers will be allowed to cross into the West Bank through the King Hussein Bridge and 150 travellers through the Prince Mohammad Bridge. The statement urged people to refrain from travelling to the West Bank on Tuesday unless in emergency. According to the statement both bridges will be closed completely on the following day, Wednesday and re-open as normal on Thursday, May 15. No reason was given for the measures.

## Shara'a in Tehran with Assad message

NICOSIA (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara'a arrived in Tehran on Monday to review bilateral relations and discuss world issues with Iranian officials, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, headquartered here, said Mr. Shara'a also carried a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to his Iranian counterpart Ali Khamenei. IRNA said the "U.S. imperialism has recently started open measures" against Iran, Syria and Libya.

## Israel to aid settlers in Jordan Valley

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities have decided to provide Jewish settlers in the Jordan Valley with funds to help them harvest this year's crops, the Jerusalem Post reported Monday. The settlers had asked for an immediate allocation of \$6 million, the Post said. It did not say how much was actually allocated.

## Israelis besiege Jalazone camp

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities have been imposing a siege on Jalazone camp, near the occupied town of Ramallah on the West Bank, since last week reports said. The occupation authorities were mounting a major search campaign inside the camp and arresting large numbers of Palestinians from the camp. The Israeli authorities were claiming that several commando raids have been launched against Israeli military patrols from places adjacent to the camp.

## Nepalese vote in partyless elections

KATMANDU (AP) — Nepalese went to the polls on Monday to choose a new national assembly, and despite a boycott called by most of the Himalayan kingdom's outlawed political parties, long lines were waiting when voting centres opened. In all, 1,548 candidates were running for 112 seats. King Birendra will nominate the other 28 members of the 140-member one-house legislature. The general election is the second in the 25-year history of the "panchayat" system, which does not allow political parties.

## INSIDE

Car bomb defused in east Beirut, page 2  
Alia signs agreement to buy 12 Airbus, page 3  
The spy plane that flew into history, page 4  
China Syndrome possible at Chernobyl plant, scientists say, page 5  
Rudi Voeller's performance lifts West German hopes for World Cup, page 6  
Declining oil revenues bring hardships to Iran, page 7  
China to launch satellites for U.S., page 8

# Israelis say Syrians building tank positions in eastern Lebanon

## Rabin: No attacks planned against Syria but 'guerrilla bases' remain to be targets

Combined agency despatches

ISRAELI MILITARY sources were quoted on Monday as saying that the Syrian army was building new tank emplacements in eastern Lebanon in a move viewed as preparation for war.

The sources, quoted by AP, said had been no signs that the Syrians were preparing an immediate attack, and that the fortifications were not being equipped with weaponry.

They refused comment on an NBC Television report that Syrian troops in Lebanon were moving southwards in the direction of Israel's border. Israel's army withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon last June and warned Syria not to move into the vacated areas.

Reports of Syrian activity in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and fears that Israel might retaliate for alleged Syrian role in international guerrilla violence were partly responsible for a war scare last week.

Israeli leaders and army chiefs have blamed Syria for anti-Israeli violence, including last month's attempt to plant a bomb aboard an El Al airliner in London, but they

stressed that they did not expect an imminent clash with Syria.

"Israel does not believe in war with Syria. We think that the Syrian army, the Israeli forces and our governments think the same," said Major General Ori Orr, commander of Israeli troops on the Syria and Lebanon confrontation lines. He spoke on Sunday to United Nations peacekeepers in Tiberias and his remarks were carried Monday by Israeli army radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has tried to play down reports of an imminent Israeli attack saying that Israel wanted to avoid an escalation with Syria. Speaking in Tokyo Monday, right-wing cabinet minister Moshe Arens said "Israel has no intention of taking any military action against Syria" (See page 2).

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin repeated the assurances on Monday saying Israel

planned no raids on Syria but said attacks on "guerrilla targets" in Lebanon remained a constant option.

Mr. Rabin told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in a telephone interview that Britain and Israel had evidence of Syrian involvement in the failed April 17 bid to put a bomb on board an Israeli airliner at London's Heathrow airport.

"When it comes to the possibility about a direct military confrontation we believe that the policy should be to deter war, to prevent it. We have no intention of initiating all-out war against Syria," he said from Israel.

"We believe that our awareness and preparedness and the basic balance of power, which is in our favour, can deter the Syrians from their thinking of making mistakes and getting into all-out hostilities."

He contended that at the same time Israel had to cope with what he called Syrian-assisted acts of "terror."

"For example, in Lebanon we have got the security zone, the South Lebanese Army, which is backed and assisted by us, and whenever it is needed we attack terrorist targets wherever and whenever we find them all over Lebanon."

## Britain is considering further action against Syria — Renton

LONDON (R) — Britain may take further measures against Syria after the expulsion of three of its diplomats at the weekend over allegations of Syrian complicity in international guerrilla attacks, Foreign Office Minister Tim Renton said Monday.

The three were expelled following a Syrian refusal to waive their diplomatic immunity so that they could be questioned by British police about an attempt to plant a bomb on an Israeli airliner at London's Heathrow airport on April 14.

On Sunday, Syria announced expulsion of three British diplomats in Damascus in retaliation for the British move.

## Tunisian suspect said to admit role in London and Paris blasts

PARIS (R) — A Tunisian arrested after a tip-off from his girlfriend has confessed to taking part in three bombings in Paris and London, a Paris police spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman for the serious crimes department said Habib Maammar, 25, had confessed to the attacks during questioning in the Eastern French city of Nancy, where he was arrested last Thursday.

Maammar and his estranged companion, Souad Aissaoui, an Algerian who denounced him to police, were both charged in Nancy on Monday with possession of explosives, police said.

The spokesman said Maammar admitted he took part in a bomb attack in February last year outside the Paris branch of British

"We are now considering whether there is cause for any additional measures against Syria," Mr. Renton told the House of Commons.

Questioned on whether Britain planned to limit the size of the Syrian mission in London, Mr. Renton said: "We do not wish to enter into a tit-for-tat with Damascus over this issue."

Answering an opposition Labour Party suggestion that the government had acted on information from the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, Mr. Renton said British police had received no information from Israeli sources and had acted as a result of their own investigation.

department store Marks and Spencer in which one person was killed and 15 were injured.

He was also said to have claimed a role in the Christmas 1983 bombing of a London Marks and Spencer store and an attack in August 1984 against a Paris branch of Israel's Bank Leumi.

Maammar said he originally intended to plant a bomb at the Paris offices of the Israeli airline El Al but found security too tight and chose the bank instead, police said.

Police in Nancy were tipped off by Ms. Aissaoui, who complained to them he had beaten her and forced his way into her home.

The woman showed police a charge of explosives which she said belonged to Maammar as proof of her evidence.

## New Israeli report criticises occupation treatment of Arabs

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's government comptroller has sharply criticised Israel's rule over 1.3 million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an annual report released on Sunday, the comptroller says West Bank schools are seriously overcrowded with 50-60 Palestinian children learning in each classroom.

The report blames Israel for a lack of vocational schools, saying thousands of Palestinian teenagers are destined for unemployment because they are not properly trained for jobs.

It says the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba has misused its budget by paying large fees to defend Jewish settlers who attacked Arabs and damaged property.

Kiryat Arba also used part of its budget to defend members of a Jewish terrorist underground convicted of killing three Palestinian students and planting car bombs that maimed two Palestinian mayors in 1980, the report said.

## Government party heads for decisive victory in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — The pro-government Jatiya Party headed for a comfortable majority in parliament according to latest election results on Monday but the opposition charged widespread fraud.

Election commission figures showed Jatiya winning 132 of the 264 constituencies counted so far. The major opposition Awami League had 70 and other parties in a 15-party alliance with the league had 20. Three hundred parliamentary seats were contested in last Wednesday's election.

However, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed refused to accept the results and called for a general strike on Wednesday and

## Qatar releases 29 held in reef dispute

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — British, Dutch, Thai and Filipino employees of the Dutch firm Ballast Nedam arrived in Bahrain on Monday, after 17 days in captivity in Qatar.

They were greeted at Manama international airport by Bahraini officials, executives of the Dutch company, British and Dutch diplomats.

The Britons, chief engineer Richard Thompson and Surveyor Brian Davies were escorted to one car, while Dutch superintendent Wim Hoekendyke was taken to a separate car.

The 24 Filipino and two Thai workers boarded a Ballast Nedam bus which took them along with the released British and Dutch detainees to the company's residential compound at Manama district of Jassra.

The 29 detained April 26 when helicopter-borne Qatari troops landed on and seized the Fasht Al Dibal reef.

Ballast Nedam was engaged by the government of Bahrain to set up a coastguard station on the island midway between Qatar and Bahrain in the Gulf waters.

The reef is part of a disputed region that also includes the Hawar Islands.

Diplomatic sources said the territorial dispute had not been resolved. "This is one small part of a bigger issue," said one quoted by Reuters.

After its troops took over the reef the Doha government said filing it in had violated terms of an agreement to maintain the status quo in the disputed areas.

Diplomats said a giant Qatari natural gas field may extend into the area around the reef, according to considerable economic significance.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states have been trying to contain the conflict and resolve the dispute through negotiations.

The 29 Ballast Nedam employees were detained at a "regular" prison in Qatar, where other (unidentified) foreigners, also were remanded in custody," said one Bahraini official.

"The group were seized by the Qataris without trouble and, contrary to earlier reports, there was no shooting by that time," said the unidentified official. "They were working at Fasht Al Dibal on behalf of Bahrain which, under an authorisation from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), was to build a coastguard station on the reef."

The official refused to explain why the Qataris attacked and seized the reef, saying merely that "it was all a mistake, and the problem is currently nearing a solution."

Bahrain has laid claim to Huwair, three fished islands about the northwestern coast of Qatar.

No official explanation was immediately available here of Qatar's motives, as the Qataris never publicly claimed the Fasht Al Dibal reef.

Despite mediation bids, the Qataris have been reported to be deporting students and suspending workers of Bahraini origin, AP said.



ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS: Foreign Minister Taher Al Wasri on Monday receives copies of credentials of the newly appointed non-resident Colombian ambassador to Jordan, Mrs. Virginia Obregon. Mrs. Obregon is the first Colombian ambassador to Jordan (Petra photo)

## Libya serves expulsion notice to 36 W.European diplomats

By Dina Matar  
Reuters

LIBYA ON Monday announced the expulsion of 36 diplomats from seven West European countries and gave them between a week and 10 days to leave, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported.

The 36 include 25 Italian embassy staff, six of whom have been declared *persona non grata* for "carrying out activities against Libya's interests," according to a Foreign Ministry statement quoted by JANA.

Also ordered expelled were four West German diplomats, two each from Spain and Belgium and one each from France, The Netherlands and Denmark, the statement, read to Reuters by a JANA editor, said.

It said diplomats from the seven countries allowed to remain in Libya would be restricted to Tripoli's boundaries.

The statement said the move was "in retaliation for the oppressive measures taken by European countries, under pressure from the United States, against members of Libyan peoples' bureaux (embassies) in Europe on the pretext of terrorism."

Libya remained committed to

maintaining strong ties with West European people, the statement said.

The Libyan measures followed moves by European Community (EC) countries to cut the size of Libyan missions in their capitals because of Tripoli's alleged support for "terrorism."

Several European countries have expelled Libyan diplomats in the past few weeks.

Libya denies any involvement in terrorist activity.

The latest expulsion came on Friday when Spain gave the Libyan consul-general in Madrid 24 hours to leave, saying he had links with an extremist Spanish army colonel.

Monday's Libyan statement did not name the diplomats who have to go.

The Italian embassy in Tripoli, contacted by telephone, declined to give details. The only British diplomat at the embassy, which looks after British affairs, was not affected by Monday's measures, diplomatic sources said.

The Italian embassy has been handling British interests in Tripoli since April 1984 when Britain broke diplomatic ties with Libya over the killing of a policewoman outside the Libyan embassy in London.

Monday's Libyan measures follow the expulsion of more than 100 Britons, Spaniards and Italians late last month in response to the deportation of Libyans from London, Madrid and Rome.

Diplomats said a major factor behind the European moves was to dissuade the United States from further military action against Libya such as the April 15 raids on Tripoli and Benghazi.

Leaders of the United States, Britain, Canada, West Germany, France, Italy and Japan, at a meeting in Tokyo last week, announced measures against states sponsoring or supporting "terrorism" and named Libya as one of them.

Libya said the Tokyo measures were tantamount to a declaration of war.

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said Monday Belgium will retaliate for Libya's expulsion of two of its three diplomats in Tripoli.

He told Belgian reporters that Libya had expelled the head of chancery at the Belgian embassy and the diplomat in charge of U.S. affairs there.

Belgium has been looking after U.S. interests in Libya since President Reagan cut relations with Tripoli two years ago.

## Iran warns against U.S. and French naval 'interference'

TEHRAN (R) — Navy Commander Mohammad Hossein Malekzadegan said on Monday Iranian naval units would take action if U.S. and French warships continued to interfere in daily checking by Iran of Gulf shipping for Iraq-bound goods.

"Recently it has been observed that these warships create problems for our naval units as they carry out their mission to inspect ships carrying Iraq-bound goods," Mr. Malekzadegan told Ettelaat newspaper.

"If U.S. warships continue to escort ships carrying cargo for Iraq and if we ascertain that the presence of these ships is a threat to our interests, then we will resolutely enter action," he said.

Mr. Malekzadegan's comments were the first time Iran has said

foreign warships were actively interfering in the Iranian navy's checking of vessels for goods destined for Iraq, which it has the right to do under international law. He said seven cargo ships and three oil tankers were checked on Sunday.

Mr. Malekzadegan said the French kept one warship and the United States two vessels equipped with helicopters close to Iran's "security zone" on the Iranian side of a line drawn roughly half down the Gulf.

The London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies estimates the Iranian navy's strength at three destroyers, four frigates, one corvette, 14 fast attack and patrol boats and other support vessels.

Iraqi jets hit ship off Iran, page 2

## Moscow assails W.European ban on food imports from East

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union on Monday attacked West European plans to ban East bloc food imports after the Chernobyl nuclear accident, saying they were unjustified and part of a campaign to create a virtual state of madness.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Lomeiko also gave fresh confirmation that local misjudgment delayed word of the April 26 Ukrainian nuclear disaster reaching Moscow.

In other criticism of the incident, the official daily Pravda reported the punishment of officials who neglected evacuees in their charge after the accident (See page 8).

"There is no danger whatsoever for the health of the people of Europe," Lomeiko said when asked at a briefing about the European Community's (EC) agreement in principle to ban imports of food from the Soviet Union and six East European states.

He said Moscow was used to discriminatory measures against the Communist countries by the West.

## Television reports six more deaths

MOSCOW (R) — Six more people have died following the Chernobyl nuclear accident, bringing the total death toll to eight, Soviet Television reported. It said the six died in hospital of radiation burns. Two were reported to have died in the accident on April 26. A further 35 people were in a serious condition, the television said. Altogether 204 people have been officially reported injured.

"They're trying to make a policy out of this unfortunate event," he said.

"First fanning it up, leading public opinion to a virtual state of psychosis... uncontrolled in some West European countries, then using it to justify discriminatory measures."

S.Arabia bans fresh food from Europe, page 2

Soviet image dented, not ruined, page 4

## Mahdi to abolish Sharia

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi has been quoted as saying he would abolish Islamic law introduced by former President Jaafar Numeiri.

"It was blood-thirsty, police-state law," Mr. Mahdi said in an interview with Newsweek magazine. "We must eliminate the Numeiri experience."

Mr. Numeiri, overthrown in a military coup in April 1985, introduced Islamic law (Sharia) in 1983.

Mr. Mahdi, sworn in as prime minister last Tuesday, is trying to form a new government but differences between southern parties has delayed its announcement.

The Sudanese leader told Newsweek that Sudan's Christians and pagans, who live mostly in southern Sudan, might eventually be allowed some regional autonomy.

"If they wished it, we would give southerners legal and religious autonomy," he said. "They would have a regional identification."

The formation of Sudan's new cabinet has been delayed because the southern parties remain undecided on their nominees for the four posts they have been offered.

Sources in the Al Umma Party of Mr. Mahdi gave no indication when the southerners were expected to make up their minds.

The sources, speaking on condition they not be identified, also did not say which posts the southerners would be offered in the proposed 18-member cabinet.



# Iraqi jets hit ship off Iran

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — Iraqi warplanes raided an unidentified ship near Iran's Gulf coast Monday and scored "accurate and effective hits" on their target, a military spokesman said.

The spokesman quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said all Iraqi jets returned safely to base after the 9.06 a.m. (0506 GMT) air raid.

Iraqi jets hit a ship off the coast of Iran in the northern sector of the Gulf waters and have been raiding oil tankers sailing in that military exclusion zone to impede its Gulf oil exports.

The spokesman said the ship was a "large maritime target" in the Iraqi military communications.

An Iraqi army commander meanwhile said his forces destroyed 75 per cent of Iranian units encountered in recent ground fighting along the central sector of the warfront and were in full control of areas they stormed on two consecutive days.

## Iraqis dominate

Maj.-Gen. Thabet Sultan, commander of the 4th Iraqi Army Corps deployed in the central sector of the 1,180-kilometre Iraq-Iran front line, was quoted Monday by the state-run news agency stressing his forces "dominated" in the fighting.

Iran has also claimed its forces have scored "outstanding vic-

tories" in the same region. Independent confirmation of the Iranian and Iraqi claims was not available.

Gen. Sultan's tank-supported columns occupied 100 square kilometres of Iranian territory in that sector in an overnight Iraqi offensive Friday, a war communiqué had announced.

Six tank-led Iranian army and Revolutionary Guards brigades were destroyed in the thrust, the communiqué said.

Another war communiqué said Sunday night that Iraqi forces destroyed two additional Iranian infantry battalions that tried to attack the new Iraqi positions. The Iraqis were trying to recapture the area they lost, according to the field commanders.

"The situation has settled in favour of the Iraqi forces... after destroying 75 per cent of the Iranian units encountered," Gen. Sultan told the agency.

Gen. Sultan repeated that his assault on the Iraqis have aborted an expected Iranian ground offensive against Iraq.

Iran has reportedly mobilised large numbers of regular army troops and volunteers at Susangerd, some 30 kilometres from the border in the central sector.

Gen. Sultan's 4th Army Corps

late April and early May occupied another 275 square kilometres of Iranian land in the same area.

In the northern sector of the warfront, Iraq also reported it recaptured five mountain peaks and two ravines that the Iraqis had seized in earlier stages of the 67-month-old conflict.

Iraq acknowledged heavy fighting in the northern sector of the warfront. Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, Cyprus, also quoted Col. Ali Agha Jamali, acting commander of Iranian ground forces, as saying "outstanding victories" were scored in the central sector of the warfront in the past few days.

Tehran Radio reported Sunday that an "invading" Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian ground defences in the Gulf region. Iraq said its warplanes bombed two oil pumping stations in Iran on Sunday and all jets safely returned to base. A war communiqué Sunday night said Iraqi ground units in the central sector shot down an Iranian American-built Cobra helicopter gunship.

The recent Iraqi scattered assaults along the front line have been prompted by Iran's continued occupation of territory in the southern Iraqi Fao Peninsula since Feb. 9.

Iraq also has been increasing pressure on the Tehran government by raiding military and oil installations in Iran to force the Iraqis to negotiate a settlement

to the conflict.

Iraq vowed to escalate the fighting and bombings as long as Iran rejected a negotiated settlement to the conflict and occupied an estimated 85 square kilometres at Fao.

Iraq denied Monday that one of its warplanes was shot down by Iran in the Gulf Sunday.

A military spokesman said the Iranian claim was "mere lies fabricated by Tehran rulers to cover up their big losses on the Gulf war front."

Meanwhile Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Sunday appointed Ali Shamkhani as commander of its ground forces, a powerful war machine that can call on more than three million trained fighters.

IRNA said IRGC Commander Mohsen Rezaie made the appointment at a southern Gulf war headquarters. Shamkhani was previously Rezaie's deputy.

The post is new and balances the newly-appointed commanders of the IRGC's fledgling naval and air wings. The IRGC senior command structure now appears to mirror that of Iran's regular army, navy and air force.

The Revolutionary Guards ground forces number a few hundred thousand highly trained men. The IRGC also controls the "base" (mobilisation) force of war volunteers, which has trained more than three million men during Iran's war with Iraq, now in its sixth year.

## Arens: Tokyo summit united West and Israel against 'terrorism'

TOKYO (AP) — Former Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Monday that last week's Tokyo summit united Western democracies and Israel against "international terrorism."

"We in Israel are very pleased by the statement made by the summit, including the Japanese prime minister, against terrorism," Mr. Arens told a news conference at the foreign correspondents club of Japan.

"Israel is now joined by the leading democratic countries of the world against terrorism," he said. Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, West Germany, the United States and the European Community (EC) issued a declaration at the May 4-6 summit outlining steps to take against nations that sponsor "terrorism."

Japan reportedly was reluctant to sign a declaration against "terrorism" that singled out Libya by name.

But Mr. Arens, in Japan on a private visit at the invitation of Tokyo's Jewish community, said he did not get the impression that Japan was trying to back down from the declaration when he met with Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe.

"I made clear to Mr. Abe that Israel is quite pleased, and I didn't get any hint of reticence from him on this subject," he said.

## Riyadh bans fresh food from Europe

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia banned the import of all fresh food produce from Europe for one week from May 7 for fear of radioactive contamination after the Soviet Chernobyl nuclear disaster, diplomatic sources said Monday.

The Saudi authorities told representatives of European Community (EC) countries in Riyadh only Monday that the ban would last one full week from May 7.

The sources said fresh foods such as fruit, vegetables and meat were covered by the ban, but Saudi port customs officials were also stopping frozen and processed foods.

Importers first reported the ban and embassies of EC countries here collectively approached the Commerce Ministry in Riyadh.

"We only heard officially about it this morning," one diplomatic source said in Riyadh.

The sources said European produce was unlikely to have been affected by radiation, and it was suggested to the Commerce Ministry that radiation tests be carried out.

The ban comes at a time of higher imports due to increased consumption during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and was likely to increase prices in the market place, the sources said.

But they said the ban was unlikely to benefit Australia and the United States due to the lack of time for exporters from those countries to react.

## Car bomb defused in East Beirut; Junblatt warns of fresh fighting

BEIRUT (AP) — A powerful car bomb was defused in east Beirut Monday as Druze warlord Walid Junblatt warned a full-blown civil war was imminent.

The bomb-laden grey Renault was parked in a residential neighbourhood close to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, Beirut's main power station and the central headquarters of President Amin Gemayel's Falange Party, police said.

The car was rigged with 200 kilograms of TNT tied to an anti-tank mine and 32 electrical detonators set to be activated by remote control. They were haphazardly defused by army experts, police said.

The crowded Akkawi neighbourhood escaped a disaster of a horrific magnitude by the dismantling of the car bomb, said the Falangist Voice of Lebanon radio station.

The car was parked about 500 metres from the Foreign Ministry, 700 yards from the power station and 800 yards from the Central Falangist Headquarters, according to police.

East Beirut and the Falangist port city of Jounieh have been rocked with five previous car bombings this year, killing 63 people and wounding 411 by police count. Most of them exploded outside Falangist offices.

The bombing rash followed Mr. Gemayel's crackdown on Jan. 15 on Falangist rivals who concluded a Syrian-brokered pact with opposition militia chiefs to end the civil war that has claimed more than 100,000 lives since 1975.

Syria's Druze, Shi'ite Muslim and other allies have since been campaigning to oust the 44-year-old Gemayel. Mr. Junblatt's warning Monday dashed hopes of an early resumption of negotiations between Falangist and opposition leaders to end the sectarian conflict.

Mr. Junblatt, 38, sounded the warning in a speech he delivered at a mass rally staged by his Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) in the Druze-controlled Shouf Mountain village of Bakaa on Sunday. Excerpts of his speech were broadcast by the PSP's Voice of the Mountain radio station on Monday.

"We are on the brink of another full-blown new round of the civil war," Mr. Junblatt said. "This battle might be fiercer and bloodier than any of the previous ones. Let us hold to our guns."

The radio said Mr. Junblatt left after the speech for Damascus to join his Shi'ite war ally Nabih Berri in talks with Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

The Syrians are Lebanon's main power brokers. They maintain 25,000 troops in northern and eastern Lebanon under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the 21-nation Arab League.

Meanwhile, some 200 placard-wielding students of the American University of Beirut (AUB) staged another protest march in the city's mainly Muslim sector Monday, condemning repeated kidnappings against AUB professors.

It was the third AUB protest demonstration since the abduction of Christian associate professor of cultural studies Nabil Matar, 36, as he walked from his house to the campus last Thursday.

## Peres wants families to have 4 children

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres wants every Jewish family in Israel to have at least four children to help to offset a higher birth rate among the Arab minority, an aide said Monday.

Peres, who has three children, made the comment during a cabinet discussion Sunday on a report by Hebrew University pointing to a shrinking Jewish population worldwide.

The government-commissioned

report study showed that 56 per cent of the children now born in Israel are Arabs.

It said Arabs will make up 43 per cent of the population in Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza by the year 2000 unless Jews had more babies or Jewish immigration increased.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the centrist Shinui Party said the demographic picture should rule out annexation

of the Arab areas captured in the 1967 Middle East war. The report forecast the birth of another 600,000 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza by the 21st century.

Israel, with a Jewish population of 3.5 million, rules over 1.3 million Palestinians in the occupied regions. Some 728,000 Arabs living within the pre-1967 borders are Israeli citizens.

## Spain to protest over Libyan activities

MADRID (R) — Spain's ambassador in Tripoli has been instructed to protest to Libya over the "irregular activities" of the Libyan embassy in Madrid, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The action follows the arrests in Spain of a right-wing colonel and suspected Libyan-backed guerrillas.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the ambassador in Tripoli, Ricardo Peidro, had been told to express Spain's "displeasure" over the embassy's activities.

Spain at the weekend expelled the Libyan consul-general, accusing him of arranging for Spanish army Col. Carlos Meer de Ribera to seek funds from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for subversive rightist activities in Spain.

It also arrested 10 guerrilla suspects said to belong to an anti-Zionist Lebanon-based group called "the Call of Jesus Christ."

The Interior Ministry quoted

two of them, a Spaniard and a Portuguese, as saying their leader received money and orders from Libyan officials to attack U.S. businesses.

It said the two were arrested as they planned a bomb at the Madrid branch of the Bank of America last May 2 and confessed to bombing Air France offices in Lisbon last month.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the latest developments had brought Spanish-Libyan relations to a new low but Madrid was not at the moment considering a total break with Tripoli.

A spokesman for the Libyan "People's Bureau" or embassy, denied the accusations and challenged Spain to produce supporting evidence.

He said the charges were part of an anti-Libyan campaign following what he called aggressive

measures taken by the European Community against Libya earlier this month.

Press reports said a military magistrate was expected to charge Col. Meer de Ribera with conspiring for purpose of a rebellion, a charge carrying a six-year jail sentence.

Official sources said intelligence services had gathered irrefutable evidence of his Libyan connection.

They said at least two Spanish rightist civilians were involved in Col. Meer de Ribera's activities.

Relatives who visited Col. Meer de Ribera in prison told reporters he admitted to visiting Col. Qadhafi twice as a personal friend, but rejected accusations of subversion.

The expelled consul-general, Saed Mohammad Al Salarni Esmail, has denied arranging his trip to Tripoli.

## Kuwaiti aide asked to withdraw resignation

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's government has served notice that education policies will be implemented unaltered, and Education Minister Hassan Ali Al Ibrahim has been asked to withdraw the resignation he gave amid parliamentary opposition.

Mr. Ibrahim, long under attack by religious fundamentalists, drew fire from assembly members for tightening up on university admissions policy and over reforms aimed at streamlining staff and combating inefficiency.

A government spokesman con-

firmed Mr. Ibrahim's resignation, said Sunday Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah had asked him to review his decision to quit.

Educational policy pursued by the government will continue unaltered, the spokesman said after a weekly cabinet meeting.

If he does not withdraw his resignation, Mr. Ibrahim will be the third minister to step down since a major cabinet reshuffle in March 1985 after parliamentary elections a month earlier.

The assembly, which has proved unusually assertive, forced Justice

## Minister Sheikh Salman Al Duaij

Al Sabah to quit last year to avoid a vote of no-confidence over alleged use of his post for the gain of his immediate family in state efforts to debt crisis brought on by a 1982 stock market crash.

Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, another royal family member who also became minister in the previous cabinet, offered to resign last year amid criticism over efforts to resolve the debt crisis and his conduct of oil affairs. He stayed in office at the urging of the crown prince.

## TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	20:00	Evening Show
15:00	21:00	News Summary
15:30	21:30	Evening Show Cont.
16:00	22:00	Evening Show Cont.
16:30	22:30	Evening Show Cont.
17:00	23:00	Evening Show Cont.
17:30	23:30	Evening Show Cont.
18:00	24:00	Evening Show Cont.
18:30	24:30	Evening Show Cont.
19:00	25:00	Evening Show Cont.
19:30	25:30	Evening Show Cont.
20:00	26:00	Evening Show Cont.
20:30	26:30	Evening Show Cont.
21:00	27:00	Evening Show Cont.
21:30	27:30	Evening Show Cont.
22:00	28:00	Evening Show Cont.
22:30	28:30	Evening Show Cont.
23:00	29:00	Evening Show Cont.
23:30	29:30	Evening Show Cont.
24:00	30:00	Evening Show Cont.

**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
639, 720, 1413 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE	20:00	Evening Show
15:00	21:00	News Summary
15:30	21:30	Evening Show Cont.
16:00	22:00	Evening Show Cont.
16:30	22:30	Evening Show Cont.
17:00	23:00	Evening Show Cont.
17:30	23:30	Evening Show Cont.
18:00	24:00	Evening Show Cont.
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22:00	28:00	Evening Show Cont.
22:30	28:30	Evening Show Cont.
23:00	29:00	Evening Show Cont.
23:30	29:30	Evening Show Cont.
24:00	30:00	Evening Show Cont.

**RADIO JORDAN**  
875 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM  
& party on 95.60 KHz, SW  
7411-19

07:00	Light Music
07:30	News Desk
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Morning Show Cont.
09:30	Pop Session Cont.
10:00	Pop Session Cont.
10:30	Pop Session Cont.
11:00	Pop Session Cont.
11:30	Pop Session Cont.
12:00	Pop Session Cont.
12:30	Pop Session Cont.
13:00	Pop Session Cont.
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22:00	Pop Session Cont.
22:30	Pop Session Cont.
23:00	Pop Session Cont.
23:30	Pop Session Cont.
24:00	Pop Session Cont.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	20:00	Evening Show
15:00	21:00	News Summary
15:30	21:30	Evening Show Cont.
16:00	22:00	Evening Show Cont.
16:30	22:30	Evening Show Cont.
17:00	23:00	Evening Show Cont.
17:30	23:30	Evening Show Cont.
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22:30	28:30	Evening Show Cont.
23:00	29:00	Evening Show Cont.
23:30	29:30	Evening Show Cont.
24:00	30:00	Evening Show Cont.

**EXHIBITIONS**  
\* An exhibition of all screen prints and paintings by Sue and Scott Dabab, at the American Centre (until May 15).  
\* An art exhibition by Issam Badr at the Abdel Hamid Shoman Foundation (until May 13).  
\* Chinese photo exhibition at Yarmouk University (until May 14).

**CIRCUS**  
\* Romanian Circus daily at Al Hussein Sports City.  
\* "Chariots of Fire" at 7:30 p.m. at the British Council.  
\* The ABC News at 5:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

**VIDEO**  
\* "Age of the dinosaurs" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.  
\* "The ABC News" at 5:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

**CULTURAL CENTRES**  
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267  
American Centre 645371  
American Centre Library 641520  
British Council 636147-8  
French Cultural Centre 637009  
Goethe Institute 641993  
Soviet Cultural Centre 642033  
Spanish Cultural Centre 620409  
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777  
Haya Arts Centre 645195  
Hassan Youth City 647181/86  
V.W.A. 642551  
American Cultural Library 637111  
University of Jordan Library 843553

**MUSEUMS**  
Petra Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics.

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	20:00	Evening Show
15:00	21:00	News Summary
15:30	21:30	Evening Show Cont.
16:00	22:00	Evening Show Cont.
16:30	22:30	Evening Show Cont.
17:00	23:00	Evening Show Cont.
17:30	23:30	Evening Show Cont.
18:00	24:00	Evening Show Cont.
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22:30	28:30	Evening Show Cont.
23:00	29:00	Evening Show Cont.
23:30	29:30	Evening Show Cont.
24:00	30:00	Evening Show Cont.

**ARRIVALS**  
02:30 Baghdad (RJ)  
09:45 Cairo (RJ)  
09:45 Athens (RJ)  
10:35 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:35 Cairo (MS)  
10:45 Jeddah (RJ)  
11:00 Moscow (SU)  
11:00 Damascus (RJ)  
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
11:05 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
11:05 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
13:30 Moscow (SU)  
14:30 Baghdad (RJ)  
14:30 Kuwait (RJ)  
14:30 Riyadh (SV)  
17:30 Larnaca (RJ)  
18:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)  
18:35 Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
18:35 Athens (RJ)  
19:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)  
20:05 Zurich, Larnaca (SK)  
20:10 Rome, Damascus (AZ)  
20:30 Tripoli (RJ)  
21:00 Frankfurt (LH)  
21:00 Baghdad (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**  
07:30 Agaba (RJ)  
09:00 Beirut (MEA)  
11:20 Cairo (RJ)  
11:30 Tripoli (RJ)  
12:30 Athens (RJ)  
13:30 Geneva, London (RJ)  
13:35 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
13:35 Rome, Madrid (RJ)  
13:45 Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)  
14:00 Larnaca (RJ)  
14:30 Cairo (RJ)  
15:00 Moscow (SU)  
15:30 Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (RJ)  
15:35 Kuwait (RJ)  
17:40 Riyadh (SV)  
20:30 Kuwait (RJ)  
20:40 Dhahran (RJ)  
21:05 Jeddah (RJ)  
21:15 Cairo (RJ)  
22:00 Baghdad (RJ)  
22:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)

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\* Kana C  
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**WEATHER**



## Dudin holds meetings with W. Bank mayors

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin has reiterated the Jordanian government's concern over finding ways to alleviate the sufferings of Arab people in the occupied Arab territories and means of strengthening their steadfastness.

The minister was speaking during separate meetings over the past three days with three West Bank mayors; Mayor of Hebron Mustafa Al Natsheh, Mayor of Bethlehem Elias Freij and Mayor of Ya'bad Murawweh Ibrahim.

Talks during the meetings focused on the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and issues related to municipalities and

the obstacles impeding municipal councils from providing the best services to Arab citizens.

Mr. Dudin also met with several heads of municipal and village councils, charitable and co-operatives societies in the West Bank as well as a delegation representing employees at Jerusalem municipality and he briefed them on the five-year development plan for the occupied Arab territories. He said that the plan was drawn up upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein.

The delegations affirmed their loyalty to the King who, they said, has spared no effort to liberate the Arab citizens and the land from occupation.

## One person dies, 10 sustain injuries in road accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — One citizen was killed and 10 others were injured on Sunday as a result of four different car accidents.

In Sweilich, in the western outskirts of Amman, a car accident resulted in six serious injuries. The casualties were rushed to the University of Jordan hospital for treatment. In Jizeh area, along the

Desert Highway, a citizen was injured when his car overturned.

In Ruweished area, an Iraqi truck hit a tanker, resulting in the death of the tanker's driver and the Iraqi driver was injured. In Ouweira, along the Desert Highway, two people were seriously injured as a result of a collision between two cars.

## Collapse of finance firm started years ago

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The collapse of the Saliba Rizk Shukri Rizk money exchanger last week was the culmination of financial difficulties the company had been experiencing for several years, leaving it with liabilities estimated at between JD 15-18 million, and assets of around JD 5 million, according to informed government sources and banking and financial community sources directly involved in attempts last week to resolve the company's problems without resorting to legal action.

On May 1, a committee of prominent local figures from the commercial and financial community sought to come to the rescue of the respected Rizk company, which had registered a record of reputable business dealings for over half a century. When it became clear in late April that the Rizk company was in trouble, the committee of private businessmen asked the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) for its blessing to attempt a friendly resolution of the company's problems, and the CBJ gave its approval and encouragement.

"We thought the problem may be in the range of one or two million dinars," said one member of the committee, "but it soon became clear that the shortfall in assets was much greater."

Initial calculations by the committee of businessmen and the government put the Rizk company's liabilities at between JD 15-18 million, of which about JD 9 million is in the form of deposits of individuals, about JD 2 million is in the form of loans from local banks, another JD 2 million is owed to foreign banks and money changers, and about JD 3 million is in the form of floating (uncleared) checks and remittances that were being handled by the company.

The Rizk company has not formally declared bankruptcy, and the leading accounting/auditing firm of Saba and Company has been appointed by the Rizk's to evaluate the company's assets and liabilities with a view to settling as much as possible of its outstanding obligations.

Government sources anticipate the evaluation process will take at least a month.

The collapse of the Rizk company, however, is not expected to affect the local banks, as all its loans from banks were guaranteed by ample and viable collateral, mainly in the form of company shares and real estate holdings. Its obligations to foreign banks and money changers were also similarly secured.

According to preliminary analyses, about 400 people had deposited money with the company during the past several years, to take advantage of the high interest rates that were offered. These

ranged generally from 12-15 per cent, depending on the currency, the amount of the deposit and the length of maturity.

The Central Bank had warned Jordanians last Sept. 14 that such deposit-taking by money changers was illegal in Jordan, and contravened the licenses of the money changers. The same warning was issued again earlier this week.

The Rizk company started taking deposits a few years ago, presumably to generate cash flows to make up for business losses that were thought to have been experienced outside the country for the most part.

The company became insolvent earlier this year when its interest payments to depositors became greater than the income it could generate from its long established and highly respected money changing operations.

It is expected that the company will have to be declared formally bankrupt in the near future, though as one government source put it, "we want this to be done in an orderly fashion."

Central Bank sources estimate the company's assets at around JD 5 million, though most of these are already mortgaged to local banks, from whom the company borrowed money in recent years. The likelihood, therefore, is that most local depositors would hope to reclaim only a portion of their deposits, unless a way is found for the company to generate new assets. One hope was that real estate holdings in Egypt and equity participations by the Rizk family abroad could be liquidated and repatriated to Jordan to settle obligations here.

There should also be some cash left over from the liquidation of assets that were put up as collateral against bank loans. As one government official involved in the case said: "The collateral pledged against the bank loans exceeds the value of the loans."

Asked why the government did not step in earlier and regulate illegal deposit-taking activities by some of the country's 87 money changers, one official noted that when the Central Bank of Jordan tried to put pressure on the money changers to stop taking deposits, it was misinterpreted as a tightening up on the foreign exchange controls system in general, which it was not.

One possibility that the committee of businessmen was considering was to repay in full the deposits of small depositors, and revalue the deposits of larger depositors at the value of the deposits when they were first made, excluding the high interest they had expected to accumulate.

Of the 400 depositors who placed their money with the Rizk company, about half had deposits worth up to JD 10,000, and the other half had deposits of between JD 10,000 and several hundred thousand dinars.

## Money changer's death hits W. Bank investors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hundreds of West Bank investors may lose large sums following the apparent suicide last week of a prominent Jordanian money-changer, "sources" in the occupied territories told the Jerusalem Post.

Saliba Shukri Rizk, 60, who had been in financial trouble, was found dead Thursday outside his Amman home with a bullet in his head.

A prominent East Jerusalem businessman who knew Rizk said hundreds of private investors, mainly in East Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Ramallah, might lose

money they had invested through Rizk's firm.

Rizk's company was one of five major money-changing firms in Amman used by West Bank investors and money-changers, and was known for its reliability and integrity, the businessman said.

Though Rizk's death has been the subject of much discussion in East Jerusalem financial circles, money-changers there were tight-lipped, saying only that Rizk had been "the best in the business." Many denied involvement with him.



Airbus aircraft — soon to be seen in Jordanian airspace (J.T. file photo)

## National campaign raises JD 116,000 for construction of cancer centre

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A nationwide campaign to raise funds for building the Amal national cancer centre has raised JD 52,000 in donations and JD 64,000 in net profit from a welfare lottery, member of the national team for combating cancer Fakhri Bilbeisi said Monday.

Mr. Bilbeisi said that the total figure of JD 116,000, in addition to approximately JD 450,000 raised during last year's campaign, has been earmarked to construct the infrastructure of the projected Amal centre for which studies are underway.

Approximately JD 1 million is needed to start the infrastructure work which will be on a piece of land donated by the University of Jordan on the campus. Mr. Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times that he

expected work at the project, which is estimated to cost a total of JD 8 million, to take about four years to be completed.

The fund raising campaign which ended last week, included sending letters requesting donations from business enterprises and institutions. The committee expects to organise a similar campaign before the end of the year, Mr. Bilbeisi continued.

Meanwhile a committee set up by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), which is sponsoring the campaign, has announced that it is continuing to receive donations from the public for the establishment of the Amal cancer centre. The committee said that people interested in contributing to the cancer centre should call 630398, 634001 and 634009.

A number of citizens, organisations and companies donated large sums of between JD 1,000 and JD 100 after the "knock at the door" campaign held at the end of last month and the committee listed donors names in a letter of thanks published in the local Arabic newspapers.

Approximately 5,000 schoolchildren took to the streets last week in the nationwide campaign to raise funds for building the centre.

Several committees were set up in all towns in Jordan and boy scouts and girls guides, in addition to various departments, cooperated side by side to make the campaign a success.

A similar campaign run by GUVS last year raised JD 450,000 through direct donations and a fund-raising lottery.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rifai issues memo on tyres

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai has asked all ministries and government departments to use radial tyres for their cars, buses, trucks, construction and agricultural vehicles. In an official communique issued on Monday, Mr. Rifai said that scientific research has shown that the use of radial tyres can reduce fuel consumption by between 5 and 7 per cent compared with other types of tyres.

### Work to start on new British embassy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work on building a new two-storey premises in Abdoun to house the British Embassy is expected to begin in mid-May and the facility is expected to be ready for occupation by the end of 1987. Kier International, a British firm, won the £3 million contract to construct the building which has been designed by another British contracting firm. Diplomatic staff are at present working from a rented building located on the Third Circle. The new embassy will be built on a 2.6 hectare piece of land with a total floor area of 2,500 square metres. The American Embassy has also purchased land in Abdoun to build new embassy premises.

### GFJW reelects Bashir as president

AMMAN (Petra) — For the second time, Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir has been elected president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW). During a GFJW meeting held on Sunday, Mrs. Sibam Al Qassem was elected as first vice president, Mrs. Widad Khalifa as second vice-president, Nadia Bushnaq, as secretary, Izzat Shukri as treasurer and Dr. Haifa Malhas, Khawla Abu Odeh, Wadiha Bakir, Nayfeh Al Majali, Aishah Hijazi, Majdoun Awamleh, Eidah Al Matraq, Laila Al Naumi, Sitta Al Qudah and Zahran Al Zayhamim as members.

### Hmoud receives invitation to visit China

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud Monday received Chinese Ambassador in Amman Chung Jin who delivered an invitation from Mr. Hmoud's Chinese counterpart to visit China at a date to be fixed later. The meeting reviewed Jordanian-Chinese relations in environmental fields.

### Swiss envoy tours UNRWA centres

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swiss ambassador in Amman Harald Bomer and his wife accompanied by Director of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Jordan Per Olof Hallqvist and his wife Monday visited UNRWA's health centre, supplementary feeding centre, a school, the market area and a refugee shelter in Amman New Camp (Wildat) in addition to other agency premises, according to an UNRWA press release. Switzerland is one of the main contributors to UNRWA and has made contributions totalling \$48.6 million since the establishment of UNRWA in 1950, the release added.

### Princess Majda opens art display

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Highness Princess Majda Monday opened an art exhibition at the American Centre which displays paintings and silk screens by a mother and daughter. The mother-daughter artist team are Sue and Sonia Dahdah and the exhibit consists of forty pieces completed while the artists have been living in Jordan.

### Ministry distributes 73,000 fruit trees

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 73,000 fruit tree saplings have been distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture since the beginning of this year. The distribution of these free saplings to members of the public is within the ministry's policy to increase the green area in the country and to conserve soil. The ministry also sold 413,000 fruit saplings from its nurseries at nominal prices. The highland development project has distributed more than 175,000 fruit tree saplings to farmers whose land is included in the project, according to ministry sources. More than 90,000 olive saplings have also been sold. A total of one million saplings have been produced by the ministry nurseries, the sources added.

## Alia signs contract for 12 Airbus planes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has signed a contract to purchase six A310-300s and six A320s confirming an earlier announcement that made Alia the first Middle East customer for each type of Airbus. The airline has also taken options on a further three A310-300s and four A320s. Alia will receive the first of the A310-300s in the first quarter of 1987, and the first of the A320s in 1990, according to an Alia press release.

The A310-300s will replace Boeing 707s on routes within the region and to North Africa, and will complement TriStars on services to Europe and in the future it will serve all European routes and the TriStars, the release said, adding that the Airbus planes will serve all long range thin routes while the Boeing 747s will continue to serve the long range heavy routes. The A320s will replace Boeing 727s on routes within the Middle East, while also providing a margin for growth, the release continued.

"This contract represents the largest single investment and commitment ever made by Alia," said chairman and chief executive officer Ali Ghandour, "and the Airbus aircraft will constitute the cornerstone of our long term fleet renewal programme. They offer an unbeatable combination of economy and passenger-appeal, and have the added attraction of

being available as a package from a single manufacturer."

Each A310-300 will seat 18 passengers in first class, 35 passengers in business class and 138 in economy. The airline will finalise its choice of A310 and A320 engines within two weeks and passenger seating for the A320 shortly.

"Alia is one of major carriers in the Middle East," Airbus Industrie President and Chief Executive Officer Jean Pierson, was quoted as saying, "and its selection of the A310-300 and A320 is seen as an important vote of confidence in Airbus Industrie."

Renter adds: An official of Airbus Industrie, which groups aerospace manufacturers from France, West Germany, Britain and Spain, declined to give the value of the contract. Alia announced in March its intention to buy the 12 Airbus aircraft.

AP adds: Each A310-300 will



Ali Ghandour

be powered by a CF6-80C2 engine made by General Electric Co. of the United States. Alia has not yet made its choice of engine for the A320s. The latest order brings the number of A320s on order by 12 airlines to 134. The A320 is a single-aisle, short to medium-range aircraft that is scheduled to make its maiden flight in March 1987.

Alia has also announced that a \$20,000,000 two-year term loan has been arranged by the Jordan Finance Consortium PLC and the UBAF Bank Limited.

## JCO director returns from ICARDA talks in Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO) Hassan Al Nabulsi Sunday returned to Amman at the end of a four-day official visit to Syria during which he took part in a meeting of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) board of trustees.

The meeting, which was held in the Syrian capital of Damascus, was attended by representatives of Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan. During the four day meeting, the board of trustees approved the ICARDA budget for the years 1985-1986.

Participants also listened to a briefing about the agricultural research undertaken by the centre in the fields of grain and legumes in addition to fodder, pastures and agricultural systems. They also discussed issues pertaining to animal wealth and increasing investment in this sector.

Contacts were also intensified during the meeting to strengthen ICARDA's activities in Jordan where the climatic conditions are suitable for the centre's research.

## Japan gives rice worth \$1m to Palestinian refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs has taken delivery of a consignment of 5,500 tonnes of Thai rice worth \$1 million which is a gift from the Japanese government to displaced Palestinians living in Jordan.

According to a ministry statement, the rice will be distributed to the refugees under the supervision of a team grouping officials from the ministry and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

## Jordan asks WHO to control potentially addictive medicines

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan has called on the World Health Organisation (WHO) to "issue" international legislation requesting all nations to prohibit smoking in public places and to control the sale of medicines which contain potentially addictive drugs.

The request was made by Jordan's delegate to the WHO's current conference in Geneva, Dr. Hani Oweis, who delivered Jordan's speech to the meeting on Monday. In his address Dr. Oweis condemned the Israeli authorities

for flouting a WHO mission from entering the occupied Arab territories in the course of their investigations into the condition of Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule. Dr. Oweis urged WHO to act quickly and firmly and against what he called Israel's negative attitude and to end the injustices against the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories.

WHO's current 39th session is being chaired by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh.

## West German company to pursue land transport dispute in court

By Salameh B. Ne'matt

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The West German truck company, M.A.N., has decided to take its dispute with the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (ILTC) to court after an arbitration committee ruled in favour of ILTC, a lawyer for the West German company said Monday.

Mr. Ali Zo'bi, a prominent Jordanian lawyer who has been on the case for about two years, said M.A.N. rejected the arbitration committee's ruling and has decided to pursue the case in the first instance court and that it will press ahead with its demand for JD 27 million from ILTC.

In accordance with its decision, the arbitration committee has demanded the payment of JD 15.6 million by M.A.N. to the Iraqi-Jordanian company.

ILTC Director General Eid Al Fayez announced Saturday that the committee ruled that M.A.N. "should hand over all the equipment, garages and lorries to ILTC." He said the decision was retroactive effective January 1984.

According to Mr. Fayez, the dispute dates back to 1981 when the two companies signed a contract under which M.A.N. undertook to supply, operate and maintain 400 lorries for two years. Under the same contract, ILTC agreed to provide land for garages and a loan to help start the maintenance work.

Mr. Fayez said that by the end of 1983, before the contract expired, the West German company stopped all operations paralysing the fleet of lorries.

### 'Unprofitable operations'

M.A.N. said they stopped their operations because the lorries were designed to carry the average load of 60 tonnes each, and that ILTC was not capable of providing the type of loads that would make transporting them profitable for the West German firm. They said the weight declined to between 20 and 30 tonnes which rendered transportation of the goods on these heavy-duty, specially-designed lorries, unprofitable.

The dispute was then referred

to an arbitration committee in November 1983. The committee had held 47 sessions since then, the last of which was on Friday, when it issued its ruling in favour of ILTC.

Mr. Zo'bi said that the dispute between the West German firm and the transport company was "far from over. We will have to fight it in the first instance court and it's a long way to go," before it could be settled.

Mr. Zo'bi, speaking in an interview with the Jordan Times, said the decision by the arbitration committee was not final and that it had to be either endorsed or revoked by the first-instance court. "The M.A.N. case is a very strong one," Mr. Zo'bi contended. "The ruling by the committee is the strangest thing I have ever witnessed in my 47 years as a lawyer. I hope the first instance court will straighten things up for everybody's sake."

The committee comprised Hamad Al Farhan as chairman, former minister of public works Rafei Nijm, Abdul Tawwab Hawish, Kamal Dajani and Abdul Latif Al Shuwaf as members.

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## Jordan Times

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## Unemployment — the acceptable trade-off

THE issue of unemployment has been very prominent in Jordanian political and economic circles during the past year, as planners and government officials face the reality of dwindling markets for skilled Jordanian labour outside the Kingdom and the consequent need to create many new jobs during the coming five-year plan and beyond. Recent statistics showing that half of all Jordanians are under 15 years of age indicate that demographic forces are working against planners seeking to reduce unemployment in Jordan, and will likely continue to do so in the future — at least until the year 2000.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai noted in a recent speech that 40,000 Jordanians are currently out of work. Though not a large number, this is certainly a cause for concern in a country the size of Jordan. Mr. Rifai said that 22,000 people have applied for government jobs, and rightly pointed out that the government cannot create 22,000 government clerk positions simply to ease the burden of unemployment. The high number of applications for government jobs, on the other hand, does reveal that at least half of Jordan's unemployed citizens are counting on the public sector to create the jobs they haven't been able to find in the private sector.

There are two familiar and well-known facts, however, which both mitigate concern for the current rate of unemployment and point to an obvious solution for meeting future employment needs. One was mentioned by the prime minister in the speech noted above, and that is the existence of 100,000 jobs in the agricultural sector, jobs which Mr. Rifai said Jordanian workers will not take because they are "influenced by the wrong social concepts." The second fact, and one which arises as a consequence of the first, is that 26 per cent of Jordan's labour force is foreign. This statistic comes from a recently completed Royal Scientific Society Economic Research Department report on the socio-economic impact of foreign workers on Jordan's economy. The same report recommended adopting a labour policy of gradually replacing foreign workers with Jordanians, beginning with the service sector. Few would argue with the wisdom and necessity of this course of action. The question is how to effect such a transformation with due consideration for the rights of foreign workers in the country and how to induce Jordanians to take jobs now held by foreign workers.

Mr. Rifai is right in blaming "wrong social concepts" for the present unwillingness of many Jordanians to accept employment in, for example, the agricultural and construction sectors, two very large sources of jobs which are dominated by foreign workers. But this may not be the whole story. The average Jordanian worker, married and resident in a country with a high cost of living, simply cannot compete in the wage-labour market with a young, single worker coming to Jordan from countries with much lower costs and standards of living. The latter is an important consideration, for the Jordanian worker is likely to be better educated than his foreign competitor, and with education comes expectations and dreams, neither of which is likely to be satisfied by low-wage, migratory employment.

To put it simply, the wage level in Jordan is held artificially low by the massive influx of foreigners with lower costs of living and therefore lower wage demands than native Jordanians. If Jordan is to provide realistic opportunities to the increasing number of young and educated Jordanians, there is no alternative to slowly closing the door to foreign workers and allowing wages to rise to a level adequate for those who are, after all, not just guests but members of the family. Higher wages will actually reduce the number of jobs available and initially increase, not decrease, the unemployment rate in Jordan. Those jobs which remained, however, would constitute viable employment opportunities for a higher percentage of Jordanians than is currently the case. Given the fact that the number of jobs now available, and held by foreigners, is at least twice the number of unemployed Jordanians, such a policy would be an acceptable trade-off in the interest of Jordan's long-term economic health.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: Combating terrorism

THE heads of the industrialised nations who met in Tokyo lately confined their discussions solely to international terrorism. But these heads of state failed to discuss the root causes of acts of terrorism and the means of ending injustice that had been the direct responsible cause. The Arab League has now issued a statement emphasising the fact that the Tokyo summit failed to find the proper means for ending terrorism because they have failed to discuss the reasons behind it. The real reasons for terrorism emanate from injustice, blackmail, aggression, attempts to impose hegemony and domination on others and the lust for expansionism and denying other peoples their rights in to their homeland and to security and stability and peace. There can be no means of eliminating terrorism as long as injustice is maintained and people are deprived of their rights, and as long as countries are invaded and human rights violated.

#### Al Dustour: Pursuing Arab unity

JORDAN Sunday welcomed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who came for a brief working visit and for a meeting with King Hussein to review Middle East developments and Arab affairs. This visit, though coming within the framework of continued consultations between the two countries on matters of mutual concern, is bound to add one more step towards bolstering Jordanian-Egyptian relations amidst a turbulent region plagued with political turmoil and differences among Arab governments. Jordan has been playing a central role in trying to rally Arab countries together in the face of common challenges and common threats. Meetings among Arab leaders have become a necessity in the light of the serious developments in our region and in view of continued threats, especially now that the Arab summit meeting has been aborted.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: United we stand

ARAB diplomats are nowadays confronting a concerted campaign designed to cause harm to the Arab Nation's credibility. This campaign could be part of a dangerous conspiracy designed to weaken the nation's steadfastness and to justify a new aggression and a new military adventure against Syria or any other Arab state. The series of expulsions of Arab diplomats in violation of international norms, the violation of our air space by hostile forces and the continued occupation of Arab land should be met with an equal measure on the part of the Arab Nation. Arab countries should stand up together in the face of the aggression and the injustice and conspiracies. But one has to admit that the Arabs must first come together and agree on a unified strategy, and they have to understand that their present disputes and divisions can not be justified.



## The spy plane that flew into history

MAYDAY: Eisenhower, Khrushchev And The U-2 Affair. By Michael R. Beschloss. Harper & Row. 494pp. \$19.95.

By James Bamford  
Washington Post

FRANCIS Gary Powers was supposed to be dead. The problem was he didn't know it.

A few minutes earlier he had bailed out of his crippled U-2 and was now parachuting into the heart of a May Day celebration in Central Russia. At the Central Intelligence Agency and the White House, the possibility that one of the spy planes might go down over hostile territory was always a remote possibility. What Powers was never told, however, was that no U-2 pilot was ever supposed to live to reach earth. "It would be impossible," President Eisenhower remembered the CIA and Joint Chiefs assuring him, "if things should go wrong, for the Soviets to come into possession of the equipment intact — or, unfortunately, of a live pilot." Another White House aide, Eisenhower's son John, also recalled that it was "a complete given, a complete assumption as far as we were concerned," that no pilot would be taken alive by the Soviets.

It has now been more than a quarter of a century since Frank Powers slipped a poison suicide needle into his pocket, climbed into the cockpit of U-2 Number 360, and began the odyssey which would lead to the failure of the Paris summit conference and the most severe crisis of the Eisenhower administration. Mayday, by Michael R. Beschloss, an historian at the Smithsonian Institution and author of Kennedy and Roosevelt, is a fast-paced, highly readable history of that crisis.

Although many of the details have been written about before, Beschloss skillfully weaves together an assortment of memoirs, documents from presidential libraries, declassified reports and interviews into the most comprehensive analysis of the U-2 incident to date. At the same time, through use of backnotes instead of footnotes, frequent shifts of scenes, and an abundance of detail, he has accomplished the difficult task of making a work of

scholarship read like a novel. While much has been written about the tremendous accomplishments of the U-2 programmes, and there were many, little has been written about the dangerous arrogance of those who ran America's early airborne reconnaissance activities. For years, even before the U-2 incident, the United States had been secretly sending military aircraft into the Soviet Union for both photographic and signals-intelligence collection. "One day, I had forty-seven airplanes flying all over Russia," boasted one Air Force general.

Yet one wonders what the U.S. reaction might have been had it suddenly discovered four dozen Russian military aircraft heading into the United States from Canada and Mexico. President Eisenhower gave an indication during the height of the U-2 programme: Nothing, the president indicated to his senior military men involved in the programme, would make him ask Congress to declare war "more quickly than violation of our airspace by Soviet aircraft."

Once, when a deeper penetration was called for, a Marine general working for the CIA persuaded the British to conduct the risky mission. The Royal Air Force took a bomber, loaded it with cameras and extra fuel tanks, and flew it from West Germany down over the Soviet missile testing area of Kapustin Yar, 75 miles east of Stalingrad. By the time the aircraft reached safety in Iran its fuselage was peppered with holes.

To avoid this problem the CIA in 1953 asked Lockheed to develop an aircraft that could fly above the reach of Soviet aircraft and surface-to-air missiles. This would allow the United States to virtually own the sky over the Soviet Union — for a time. The result was the U-2. It could cruise at altitudes of between 68,000 and 72,000 feet, giving the aircraft an 8,000- to 12,000-foot safety buffer above the Soviet SA-1 missiles.

From the very first overflight, in the summer of 1956, the Soviets knew what was happening — and we knew they knew what was happening. The National Security Agency constantly monitored the Soviet air defence radar systems as they helplessly tracked the invisible bird. But by 1960 the sit-

uation began changing. According to Beschloss, the Soviets began installing their new SA-2 rockets which, the CIA believed, could strike a target as high as 70,000 feet and thus eliminated the U-2's safety buffer zone. Nevertheless, the rockets were still thought to be quite inaccurate above 60,000 feet.

President Eisenhower had always harboured serious reservations about the U-2 programme. He had entered office with high aspirations of improving relations with the Soviets and, he knew, a U-2 accident over Russian territory could destroy that hope. Therefore he personally scrutinized each proposed flight and route and, to the chagrin of many at CIA and Air Force, kept the numbers to the minimum.

It appears a possibility that, in order to encourage a greater number of flights, the president may not have been provided with the full details of Soviet reaction to the flights. Beschloss quotes from a memo in which an Air Force official tells the president in early 1959 that the Soviets have never fired a missile at any of the U-2's. However, former CIA deputy director Richard Bissell, who ran the spy flights, has indicated to this reviewer that missiles were in fact fired at the aircraft. In addition, Red Air Force fighters were frequently scrambled in an attempt to shoot down the intruder. On one flight from Norway to Turkey, according to Bissell, the National Security Agency recorded 56 different aircraft being scrambled against the U-2.

According to Beschloss, there appears to have been a moratorium on Soviet overflights for much of the fall of 1959 and spring of 1960. Then, strangely, although worried about the dangers of creating an incident prior to the Paris summit conference with the Soviets in the middle of May, Eisenhower approved a flight which took place on April 9. The president appeared to have mistaken Khrushchev's lack of a formal protest against the flights for acquiescence. (In fact Khrushchev was boiling mad.) As a result, shortly before the summit, he approved another flight. This, to Khrushchev, was nothing less than a deliberate insult — planned not only to precede the summit but scheduled on the most festive day in the Soviet Union, May Day.

Beschloss is unable to provide any new answers as to how and at what height Francis Gary Powers' U-2 was shot down, but he does indicate that the weight of the evidence tends to support the pilot's story that his aircraft was disabled by the nearness of a Soviet rocket near his cruising altitude. Nevertheless, there is also some evidence of pilot error, brought on by fatigue.

On learning of the shoot-down, President Eisenhower first put out a weak cover story and then, on learning that Powers and much of the aircraft survived the crash, admitted the spying and his knowledge of the programme but, untruthfully, denied specific foreknowledge of the May Day flight. To most Americans, it came as a shock to find out that their government would lie to them. In fact, it was worse. Beschloss points out that Secretary of State Christian Herter attempted to hide the president's role in the planning of the various overflights by untruthfully telling a Senate committee investigating the incident that the approval had never "come up to the president."

Following the U-2 incident and with the advent of reconnaissance satellites shortly thereafter, the United States has apparently refrained from actual overflights. But that situation may change. Currently on the drawing boards is a new type of military space plane designed to occupy that area above the high-flying reconnaissance aircraft, about 20 miles up, and the orbits of low-flying spy satellites, about 70 miles high.

Known as a Transatmospheric Vehicle, the craft may be capable of reaching Mach 16-20 speeds and able to traverse between orbital and suborbital regions. One Air Force programme considered for the TAV is the Advanced Military Spaceflight Capability, which, according to an *Aerospace Daily* report, is apparently "aimed specifically at flight over the Soviet Union, possibly at less than orbital altitudes." Should such a programme come to pass, it may be wise to remember the history Michael Beschloss brings to us in Mayday.

James Bamford is the author of "The Puzzle Palace," a study of the National Security Agency.

## France's dilemma— who calls the tune on foreign policy?

By David Housheo

Exactly who is running French foreign policy at the moment — the President or the Prime Minister? The election produced an uneasy sharing of power, but while they try to work it out a deadlock could produce foreign policy blunders.

PARIS — For all but the French there is something absurdly comic about the "family squabble" within the French administration over who is responsible for the running of foreign policy.

Listeners to breakfast radio in France heard Mr. Roland Dumas, the former Foreign Minister and an intimate of President Mitterrand, assert the other morning that the President was the "head of French diplomacy."

If they had afterwards turned to the current issue of the weekly magazine *L'Express*, they would have found a statement to the contrary from Mr. Jacques Chirac, the newly-elected prime minister, who says that it is "the government (meaning Mr. Chirac) which runs French foreign policy."

The reality behind the argument is that the responsibility for French foreign policy has largely shifted, for the first time in the history of the Fifth Republic, from the Elysee, the presidential place, to the Matignon, the seat of the prime minister. President Mitterrand no longer has the power to launch foreign policy initiatives because he no longer has control over the responsible ministries.

Thus his recent statement to a Japanese newspaper that France was now in favour of an "international anti-terrorism organisation" was pre-empting the announcement of a decision that depended on Mr. Chirac's approval. The responsibility for anti-terrorism action in France now lies

primarily with the Matignon and the Ministry of Interior over which Mr. Mitterrand has no direct responsibility.

On the other hand, Mr. Mitterrand does have a virtual veto power over any foreign policy initiatives Mr. Chirac might wish to launch. The constitution safeguards the president's role in foreign policy through the clauses that give him responsibility for pressing the nuclear button, committing French forces in the case of war, signing treaties and guaranteeing French independence.

Mr. Chirac could, thus, only brush aside Mr. Mitterrand's objections at the risk of precipitating a constitutional conflict — which he has no wish to do at the moment.

In French eyes, the president still represents France's image abroad — a factor Mr. Chirac cannot ignore. At the same time public opinion polls show that "cohabitation" is popular. In foreign affairs, at least, the two men are condemned to this marriage of convenience.

But the result of this institutional deadlock is that foreign policy is likely to be the lame duck of the administration.

"I don't expect fresh initiatives," says Mr. Samy Cohen, a political research specialist. "Foreign policy will be focused on short-term considerations of resolving the four or five current outstanding issues," he said.

Of these — the French hostages in Lebanon, the quarrel with New



Zealand over the release of France's intelligence agents, terrorism, Europe, and the trade conflict with the U.S. — all involve ministries under Mr. Chirac's control.

The danger is that the institutional deadlock will produce foreign policy blunders. This nearly occurred over the handling of the U.S. request for over-flight permission in the raid against Libya when American officials implied that Messrs Chirac and Mitterrand had different views over whether the U.S. should have tried instead to oust Col. Qadhafi. In reality it now seems their attitudes were similar.

In a bid to strengthen his influence over European affairs, Mr. Mitterrand, prior to the election, appointed Mrs. Elizabeth Guigou, his adviser on Europe, to head the interministerial committee (SGCI) that co-ordinates France's European policy.

Mr. Francois Heilbrunner, Mr. Chirac's adviser on economic and

European affairs, says the SGCI can arbitrate on minor issues but that important differences will be resolved by the Matignon. Mrs. Guigou says this has always been the case.

Until the election, Presidents had kept the management of foreign policy in their own hands — often using personal emissaries for negotiations in preference to the Quai d'Orsay, the seat of the Foreign Ministry. Thus the former President Giscard d'Estaing used Mr. Michel Poniatowski to arrange his meeting with the Soviet leader Mr. Leonid Brezhnev in Poland in 1980 as Mr. Mitterrand used Mr. Dumas in contacts with Libya before he became foreign minister. Cohabitation means that the president has lost much of his freedom and now has to work through the Foreign Ministry.

The ministry correspondingly has seen its power both fall and rise since the election. It is no longer bypassed by the president as was often the case in the past.

On the other hand responsibility for such issues as terrorism, Africa and the South Pacific in part has been shifted to other ministries to keep them more out of Mr. Mitterrand's eye.

What remains true is that the president still has an influence over foreign policy that he does not have over domestic policy. He regularly sees Mr. Jean-Bernard Raimond, the foreign minister and Mr. Andre Giraud, the defence minister, and has access to diplomatic and intelligence files. By contrast, in economic policy he is dependent on his advisers' contacts within the French administration for information rather than any regular flow from the ministries concerned — Financial Times news feature.

## Soviet image dented, not ruined, after Chernobyl, experts say

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuters

LONDON — The Soviet Union has suffered a propaganda fiasco from its nuclear accident in the Ukraine, but could yet recoup its losses on the international scene with skilful handling, Western diplomats and analysts say.

Both NATO and East European diplomats say the April 26 explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and the two-day official silence in Moscow that followed it, has seriously damaged the Kremlin's image in the world. But the international furor over the accident, which sent radioactive particles across most of Europe, was a two-edged weapon which could also be used against the West, analysts said.

Kremlin-watchers agree that by its delay in informing either friend or foe of the disaster, Moscow has squandered propaganda credits it had built up from its many disarmament initiatives and from world criticism of last month's U.S. raid on Libya.

"The incident touches so much on what the Russians have been playing on Western fears about," says William Wallace, a Soviet affairs specialist at Glasgow University. "They have been talking about the horrors of nuclear war, and here are the horrors of nuclear peace. It's been an enormous blow to them."

Diplomats said the accident, and the secrecy with which Moscow treated it, was comparable in its impact on world public opinion to the shooting down of a South Korean airliner by Soviet air defences in September 1983.

That incident was credited by many Western diplomats with having deflated the European anti-nuclear movement at a crucial moment just before the dep-

loyment of U.S. medium-range missiles in Western Europe. This time, Chernobyl has strengthened the hand of Westerners demanding the most stringent measures to verify compliance with any East-West arms control agreement.

Disagreement over the U.S.-led demands, which Moscow says are excessive, is a major stumbling block in most of the current East-West disarmament talks. These include the U.S.-Soviet nuclear and space weapons negotiations which resumed last Thursday in Geneva just 12 days after the Chernobyl accident.

President Reagan said that in the light of the disaster "the need for effective verification measures has become clearer than ever." "If the Soviet Union was ever doubtful about the West's concerns over compliance, they now should not be," comments Colonel Jonathan Alford of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.

On the other hand, analysts said Washington and its allies must realise that Chernobyl was likely to lead to growing public pressure for nuclear arms agreements which Moscow has been urging more loudly than NATO.

Western nuclear disarmament groups and ecological movements opposed to nuclear power for civil purposes could cooperate more closely than in the past.

Furthermore, the Soviet Union could argue that the disaster only underlined why it wanted to get rid of nuclear weapons, these analysts said.

At least publicly, however, the Soviets have so far shown no inclination to link the two issues. "I don't see any connection," Moscow's chief Geneva negotiator Viktor Karpov told reporters last week.

## U.S. policy on Nicaragua spurs Latin American misgivings

By Bernd Debusmann  
Reuters

MEXICO CITY — President Reagan's campaign to bring down Nicaragua's left-wing government, a subject of bitter controversy in the United States itself, is causing increasing concern in Latin America.

"In regional circumstances, the use of force is equal to putting out fire with gasoline," Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid said early this month. "In central America, intervention could convert itself into a catalyst for greater conflict."

De la Madrid echoed deep misgivings about U.S. policy on Nicaragua in a continent whose leaders appear increasingly frustrated by what they see as Washington's failure to listen to them.

Such views were reinforced when eight Latin foreign ministers representing some 310 million people were in Washington last February to urge U.S. support for a "Latin American solution" to the bloody conflicts of Central America.

President Reagan did not receive the eight, from Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay. But a few days later, he had talks — complete with a photo session — with three leaders of the U.S.-backed insurgents who are fighting for the overthrow of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua.

Such incidents cause resentment in a continent where U.S. military interventions have left deep and lasting psychological scars. "Traditionally, anti-American sentiments have been strongest on the left and the extreme right in Latin America," said a political scientist in El Salvador, one of Washington's closest allies in the region. "But the Nicaraguan issue is causing concern in the political centre as well."

Unease about the Reagan administration's course is shared by leaders who have no taste for the Sandinistas and would like them replaced — peacefully. Not one Latin American country has come out in support for the Reagan administration's drive to persuade Congress to approve an additional \$100 million in military and economic aid for Nicaragua's so-called contra guerrillas.

But Nicaragua has said it would refuse to sign the pact unless the United States pledged to end its support for the contras.

A month before the deadline, there was still disagreement over two major issues: arms control and a reduction in joint military manoeuvres.

Over the past three years, the United States and Honduras have conducted a long series of joint war games, many close to the Nicaraguan border, and the latest round of exercises was scheduled to start early in June with 1,200 U.S. troops taking part.

The U.S. government recently commissioned an opinion poll in Central America which it says shows wholehearted support for Washington.

But in Honduras a poll taken by the journalism school among labour union members contradicted the U.S.-commissioned samples. It showed most of those interviewed objected to the presence of the guerrillas in Honduras, from where they have been launching operations into Nicaragua.

"It is one thing to be friends (with the United States) and another thing to convert Honduras into an arsenal," said conservative Labour leader Victor Ariles. "Honduras is not the property of the United States."

Complaints that the United States is riding roughshod over Latin American sensitivities in pursuit of its interests run from the political right to the left, from the geographic north to the south.

In South America, Peru's President Alan Garcia has been one of the continent's most vocal critics of the U.S. role in Nicaragua. "They (U.S. officials) say Nicaragua should be more democratic but we say that Nicaragua should not be the concern of the United States, even regarding recommendations that it be made democratic," he said recently.

Garcia's foreign minister, Allan Wagner, has been even more blunt, telling U.S. special envoy Philip Habib that Washington should not only sign a pledge on non-aggression but also end its aggressive rhetoric against the Sandinista government.

Both Peru and neighbouring Brazil are members of the diplomatic "support group" formed last autumn to back the peace initiative of the Contadora group of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama.

The group has set itself a June 6 deadline for signing a Central American peace treaty that would end the presence of foreign military personnel — Americans as well as Cuban and east bloc advisers in Nicaragua — in Central America.

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هكذا في الامم



## The urban earth

As cities around the world grow ever larger, doubts are being raised about their value. Can these urban giants forge new levels of prosperity — or are they huge parasites, living on the sweat of rural communities? Mary Warren looks at the evidence.

CITIES claim powerful personalities all of their own. For Paris it's intellect and sophistication; for New York, pace and excitement; for Rio, luxury and glamour. Life for the ordinary Parisian or New Yorker or Carioca may bear little resemblance to any of these images — but the cities themselves seem to carry potent myths.

Indeed cities anywhere in the world hold all sorts of promise. They are centres of political power, of business, of learning. And, along with all the bustle and conspicuous consumption, they carry the promise of progress and success.

To an extent the promise appears to be fulfilled by the statistics. The richest nations of the world are generally those with a higher proportion of people living in cities. Some 75 per cent of the population of the United States, for example, living in urban areas, compared with 25 per cent for India. And even for those nations somewhere in between it seems that the richer they grow the larger are their towns and cities.

Does this mean that cities themselves generate the wealth: that they are the engines of progress? This is one of the questions asked by the 1986 State of World Population Report from the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Are cities a "burden or a blessing"? They certainly do have their critics: "Over-urbanisation, urban bias and the parasitic role of cities are today's buzzwords," says the Report.

Cities were not a burden at the onset of Europe's Industrial Revolution. Less than three per cent of the world's population was urban at that point compared with 40 per cent today. But the mechanisation of agriculture started to release workers from the farms. And the wages offered by the factories drew this labour force to the cities.

Britain was one of the first coun-

tries to urbanise and it set a pattern which seems to have been followed elsewhere — though telescoped into a much shorter period. The later a country has industrialised, it seems, the faster its cities have grown. Thus it took England and Wales 79 years to move from 10 per cent urbanisation to 30 per cent, whereas the same change took 66 years in the United States, 36 years in Japan and only 26 years in Australia.

In the developing world the prosperity of cities has often been closely tied to that of the richer countries. Many of the great Third World cities of today, such as Lagos or Bombay, were established by the colonial powers for trading and administration, rather than as industrial centres. And their delayed industrial development has meant that developing countries have been the last to urbanise to any great extent (though Latin America has been some way ahead of Asia and Africa).

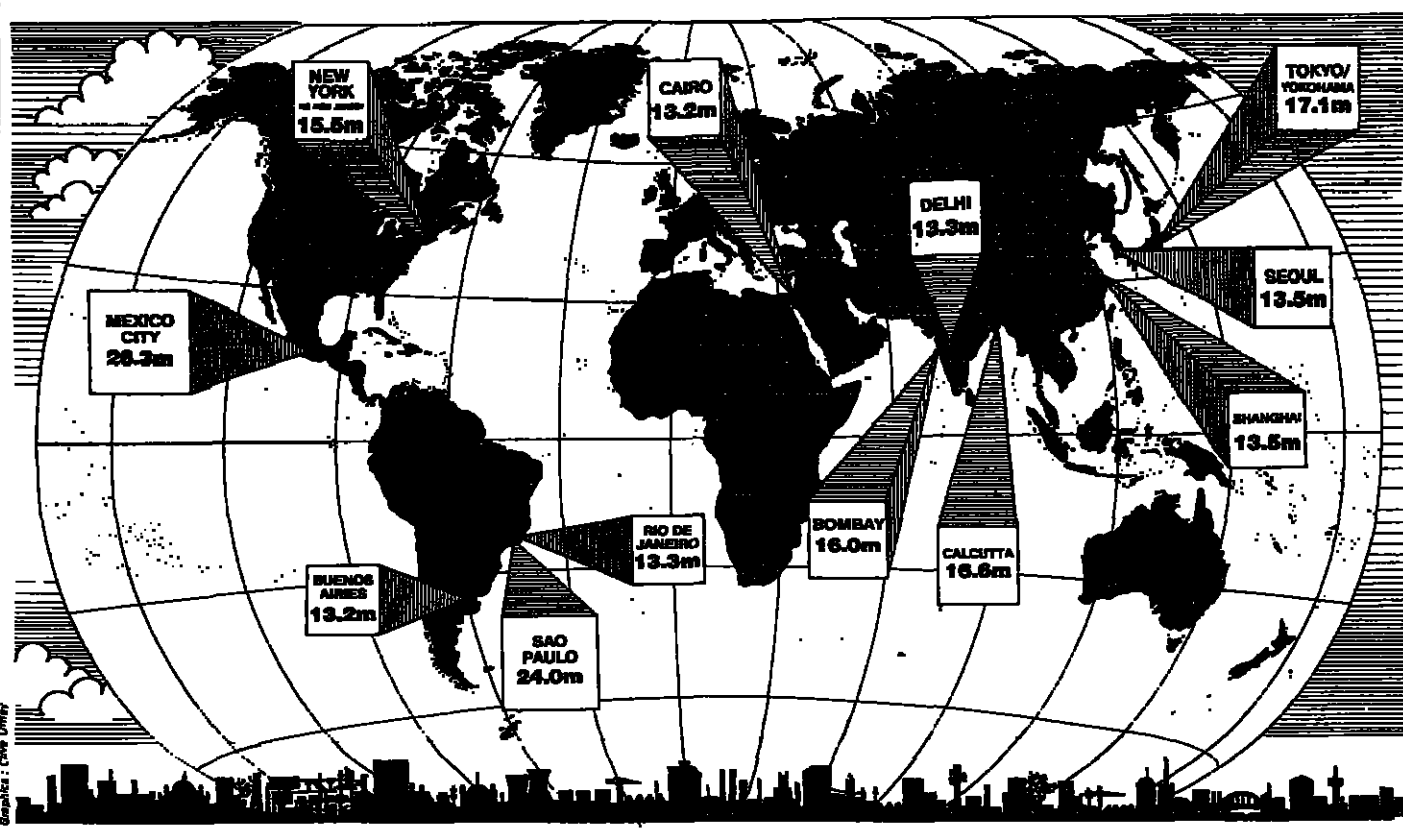
Now it is the cities of the developing world which are growing the most rapidly of all. There will, according to one estimate, be twice as many people living in Third World cities by the year 2000 as there will be in the cities of the developed countries. And it is these Third World cities — like Mexico City, Nairobi, Calcutta — that critics refer to when they talk of "over-urbanisation": of cities with populations larger than they can reasonably support. Such cities attract migrants not because they need more labour, but because poverty in the rural areas pushes people into the city to look for a better life.

Will they find it? The proponents of the over-urbanisation theory would argue "no." The cities attracting these migrants are no more than "cardboard structures" supporting an empty process. And it is certainly true that many migrants are unable to

## The rise of the cities

By the year 2000 half the world will live in cities, according to the 1986 'State of World Population' Report from the UN Fund for Population Activities.

This map shows what are predicted to be the top 12 urban areas by the year 2000.



find "productive" jobs. They join the army of sidewalk food sellers, shoe-shine boys and street performers — the "informal sector" that makes up so much of the economy of cities like Lima or Manila. They may appear to be unproductive but the fact remains, as the UNFPA report points out, that such workers earn consistently more than they would in the rural areas — even taking into account the higher cost of living and unsteady nature of their jobs.

Housing for such people is likely to be equally precarious — and quite literally made of cardboard. Squatter settlements, like the "young towns" of Lima, creep further and further up the hills around the city and out into the countryside. Ramshackle constructions of old boxes, plastic

sheeting, and straw matting provide the most basic of shelter. Living conditions look, and are, abysmal. But, unpleasant and unsightly though such slums might be, they may well be an improvement on conditions in isolated Andean villages. For one thing they will often have access to services like electricity and clean water.

The greatest accusation levelled against cities is not that they are unmanageable in themselves but that they have a damaging effect on rural areas — and thus on food production. This is partly a reflection of the "urban bias" of many governments. City dwellers tend to be more politically organised and make many demands, including that for cheap food. Governments are therefore tempted to squeeze the rural areas to

feed the cities. This can depress the prices paid to the farmers and even result in imports of foreign food — which will further depress local prices. And cities gobble up land as well as food. According to one study, cities will devour 10 million acres of land between the years 1980 and 2000: land with the potential for feeding 84 million people — about the population of Nigeria.

But cities will not stop growing just because some experts condemn them. The poor people of the developing countries will decide for themselves where and how they must live, given the social and economic conditions they face. And the city, however dirty or dangerous it might be, is often the rational choice.

Governments ought to be able

to change some of those conditions and influence that choice. They could, for example, invest a higher proportion of their budgets in the rural areas, in health and in family planning services, for example, to make it more attractive for people to stay there. And they could also try to decentralise their administration and so distribute power more evenly.

But such changes are likely to take place slowly, if at all, especially at a time when many countries are already so deeply in debt. Planners who have to jump from one crisis to the next tend not to look too far into the future. The explosive growth of the world's cities looks set to continue well into the twenty-first century — UNFPA feature.

## 'China syndrome' at Chernobyl possible, scientists say

By Robert Kearns  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — "China syndrome" at the Chernobyl nuclear plant caused by its molten radioactive core burning through the floor could either lead to further disaster or contain the damage, scientists say.

"No one knows since it has never happened before and there has never been a way to test it out," said Michael Mariotte of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, which monitors developments in the U.S. nuclear power industry.

"China syndrome" refers to the theoretical possibility that a runaway nuclear reaction could melt its container and penetrate deep into the earth, burning all the way through to China in its worst case.

"China syndrome" alarm — first made popular by the late 1970s film of the same name, which has been shown in the Soviet Union — has been on the rise since the April 26 explosion at the Chernobyl plant near Kiev.

With events at Chernobyl shrouded in mystery, Western scientists have been left to speculate on whether such an incident already has occurred or is still a risk, despite official Soviet assurances that it is under control.

Thomas Roser, director of West Germany's Atomic Forum, fuelled "China Syndrome" speculation last Thursday when he said that a Soviet representative had approached him to ask how to prevent "a hot molten mass" from melting through the reactor building's concrete foundation.

The Soviets have a major problem in getting rid of the heat from

the molten core, Roser told an American radio interviewer.

"If you pour water on the structure, that means (radioactive) air pollution," he said, since the water would quickly turn to steam. "If you leave it like it is, it may mean ground water pollution," he added.

One of the most extensive scientific studies carried out on nuclear accidents, a report commissioned by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, did not examine what would happen if the core of a reactor fell onto the concrete floor of a nuclear plant, broke through and continued to burn.

Richard Wilson, a Harvard University professor who served as chairman of the American Physical Society group that wrote the report, said its conclusions were essentially that American-

designed reactors were more secure than had been previously believed and would limit the doses of radiation that might escape.

He said the group regarded the "China syndrome" to be not as serious as a potential break in the outside of a reactor, which would send radioactive particles spewing into the atmosphere.

The nuclear industry, according to the American Nuclear Society, also has long contended that such a meltdown through a concrete floor had "a very low order of probability."

But Wilson said his group believed there was very little known about "molten core-concrete interactions."

The report's conclusion was that if all containment systems failed, the molten core might penetrate the concrete basement. But it added: "This so-called

"China Syndrome" should present far less danger to the public than any direct release to the atmosphere. The core will not penetrate for an unlimited distance into the earth but will reach thermal equilibrium after penetration of less than three metres.

"Migration of radionuclides through the earth will be governed by ionic transfer processes and will be slow — about three metre a year."

In other words, it would take virtually forever to reach China — actually, in the Chernobyl case somewhere below New Zealand, which is directly opposite on the globe.

The greatest fear of the "China syndrome" is that the molten core, burning at extremely high temperatures, will sink through the plant's floor and eventually drop into ground water, Chernobyl,

built alongside a reservoir, is near a river and the water-table level is believed to be high.

This would create "an enormous explosion of steam and the consequences would be disastrous," Mariotte said.

But he added: "It's all theoretical. It's the one nuclear possibility that no one has ever tested."

U.S. scientists said that the radioactivity levels around Chernobyl remain too high at present to find out what is really happening.

Using helicopters, Soviet teams have filled the reactor with sand, lead and boron, a non-metallic element that slows down the nuclear fission process.

But until robot television cameras can enter the area of the damaged plant, and Moscow makes its findings known, the "China syndrome" speculation will continue.

## Questioning desert dogmas

By Andrew Rusinga

The conventional view of desertification — and how to stop it — may be wrong, says a Zimbabwean ecologist. Fragile pasture lands may actually need the stimulus provided by the periodic trampling of grazing animals in order to grow.

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabwean ecologists are questioning the premises upon which most anti-desertification programmes are based. Overgrazing and underfunding are not to blame, they say. The problem is that the wrong conservation technologies are being applied.

Proponents of the new approach — called holistic resource management (HRM) — maintain that people can halt the spread of desert effectively and without vast funding, that properly managed land can carry enough stock to feed many people, and that a desert can be turned into productive grassland.

The principles of HRM are derived from observations made by Zimbabwean ecologist Allan Savory and some colleagues. During the 1950s, Savory worked as a game ranger in a remote area of Zambia, and it was there he watched the herds which gave him his first clues.

Lush, despite the presence of thousands of grazing animals, the Zambian situation was similar to that which greeted 19th Century American settlers as they pushed into the buffalo-inhabited grasslands west of the Mississippi. The key to Savory's theory is the observation that overgrazing is not so much a function of animal numbers as it is of the period of time which animals spend grazing a particular piece of land. In times past, the great buffalo and antelope herds of Africa and America were constantly on the move, and plants were given time to recover before the animals returned to

graze on them. Since the herds were nomadic, the land was also given time to recover from the effects of the concentrated trampling produced by thousands of hooves. In effect, the periodic trampling helped to plough and seed the rangelands.

Today these animals have been replaced by livestock which never turn in concentrated herds of thousands. Instead, stock is often scattered as thinly as possible on the assumption that it is essential to avoid damage from trampling and overgrazing. Land plants are thus subjected to a lighter, but more constant, interference.

Savory discovered that not all rangelands react in the same way to the replacement of large herds by smaller, more dispersed ones. Some environments are "brittle", and deteriorate more rapidly when under, rather than overgrazed. In these cases what Savory calls "over-rest" become the determining factor in ecological stability.

In a complex ecological relationship between plants, land and animals, brittle environments may actually require the intermittent but intense stimulus to growth provided by the foraging of large herds. Non-brittle environments, on the other hand, do well when livestock is removed.

While still in Zimbabwe, Savory, who now heads the Centre for Holistic Resource Management in New Mexico, USA, tested his early observations. Gradually they were refined into a practical method of land management. Under HRM, barren

rangelands were in several years returned to dense coverage with perennial grasses, and healthy increases in wildlife populations were achieved.

In a sense, when humans doomed the wild herds by restricting their ranges, they may also have doomed many of the ranges themselves. Because of this interference, Savory believes, desertification is now almost as serious in some national parks as it is on land used for domesticated animals.

With HRM, livestock can be used to rebuild a damaged ecosystem to the point where wildlife can thrive and add to the overall stability of the environment. What is most important is to distinguish, through careful observation, between brittle and non-brittle environments, so that the correct level of livestock can be determined.

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Brittle environments are not necessarily the most arid. They may have an annual rainfall in excess of 1,000 millimetres or more, yet be more prone to desertification than non-brittle environments with a rainfall of 500 millimetres or less. The two ecosystems respond differently to human influences such as overgrazing, rest, and the use of fire.

The conclusion to be drawn from the theory of HRM is that the continuing environmental disaster in sub-Saharan Africa, with its attendant famine, is not mainly

a result of poor governments, bad administration, corruption or lack of money.

"If we take the American state of Texas for example," says Savory, "we find that they have had very little success in stopping the deterioration of the environment despite massive infusions of cash, abundant and well-supported research, thousands of highly educated and motivated ranchers and farmers and a stable and non-corrupt government."

HRM shows that what is wrong is the conventional scientific wisdom and resultant conservation technology. "That is why," he continues, "unlimited money hasn't enabled Texas, or any other state or country, to solve the problem of desertification."

The problem in Africa can be traced back to increasing population densities and the application of the wrong technology.

In Savory's opinion, the conservation techniques being extended to Africa by institutions like the World Bank and Western aid agencies are faulty.

In effect they are creating, rather than preventing, deserts. "Ethiopia is but a small example of what is to follow unless we can provide better technological leadership," stresses Savory. To get rid of deserts, we must also get rid of dogmas — Barthans feature.

Andrew Rusinga is a journalist with the Zimbabwe Herald.

## Trial highlights worship of the devil in modern Britain

By Antonio Sharpe

LONDON (R) — A case of satanism, sex and sorcery has revived interest in the occult with reports that devil-worship is alive and well in 20th-century Britain.

Churchmen have conflicting views about the occult but those who believe in its existence are warning of the dangers of satanism, whose disciples according to one estimate have increased tenfold to 100,000 in recent years.

The case which thrust the occult into the headlines was that of a self-styled satanist who was jailed last week for duping rich Christians out of more than £200,000 (\$300,000) to save him from the depths of hell.

In the aftermath of the trial of Derry Maishaw Knight, which provided newspapers with almost daily reports of devil-worship, black magic and sex, religious bodies have come under pressure to clarify their position on satanism.

A senior clergyman, the Reverend Dennis Dunthill, said the Church of England dismissed satanism as out of date but the Reverend John Barton, exorcist and adviser to the Bishop of London, described it as "real, dangerous and evil."

The Bishop of Chichester, the Right Reverend Eric Kemp, said the church often had to deal with people who believed themselves to be possessed by evil but no exorcisms were attempted until the condition could not be explained or dealt with medically. Barton, who has conducted several exorcisms over the last 12 years, said the person's psychological condition was considered first and then he would look for a presence of evil.

Kemp, who summoned the police to the Knight case, said each diocese had a small number of priests who were expert in dealing with satanism, but often there was

a connection between the occult and drug taking.

Canon Dominic Walker, who runs the Christian exorcism study group, said 90 per cent of the cases they dealt with were in the end psychological but the other 10 were the work of the devil.

"People are becoming involved at an alarming rate because they like the idea of dancing naked around some hilltop, but they could find themselves tied up with some criminal fraternity," said Walker.

Kemp became suspicious when Knight began using Reverend John Baker, a rector, to collect money from rich people like Susan Sainsbury, wife of a millionaire parliamentarian, who gave nearly £80,000 (\$180,000) to the cause.

Kemp said in recent years there had been renewed interest in some of the more unusual spiritual gifts described in the New Testament, which led to some individuals and groups becoming obsessed by the thought of evil.

Those people believe Christ speaks to them and gives them direct injunction on how to deal with evil but Kemp said the church considers this practice to be extremely dangerous.

They seek to destroy satanists, who believe satan is the "true son of God" and regard the Christian church as their enemy.

Satanist groups often ensure their members' loyalty by keeping video tapes of initiation rites, which include animal sacrifice, the drinking of animal and human blood, macabre tests of endurance and sexual intercourse on a black magic altar.

"That recording, more than any satanic powers, and the threat of it being shown to relatives or employers, will be the chain that binds a satanist in loyalty to his leader," said Peter Sturges, secretary of the exorcism group.

## Beaming high hopes around the world

By John Rowley

IN a world with 600 million television sets in use and with an explosive growth in television networks, satellites, cable and videocassettes, an interlocking web of communication technology is now available which can bring the people of the planet together.

That, at least, is the vision of the Better World Society, a new international non-profit organisation, whose purpose is defined as "fostering international awareness of those global issues which bear directly on the sustainability of human and other life on earth."

With an eminent international board of directors from North, South, East and West, including former President Jimmy Carter, Soviet Foreign Affairs expert and Central Committee member Georgiy Arbatov, former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, and former Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo — now President of the U.N. University of Peace — it has already begun to produce a series of TV documentaries on its three central themes: averting nuclear war, combating rapidly growing population and helping the threatened environment.

In India, television reaches as many as 50 million people. China has the world's largest audience, with about 200 million viewers, and the Soviet Union estimates that by 1990, television will be available to 97 per cent of its population.

Chairman of the Board is Ted Turner, TV tycoon, president of Turner Broadcasting System, and founder of one of the fastest growing news networks in the world, Cable News Network (CNN). He explained: "We are concerned about problems that threaten life on this planet. Each of these threats is global in scope. None can be resolved by one country or region."

Turner Broadcasting is supplying the initial funding for the new enterprise. Asked if Better World's programmes would represent a particular point of view of ideology, Turner said: "We don't think of this as a left or right deal."

He had, he added, a long-standing interest in the issues of peace, population and environment, which has been reflected in the programming initiatives of Turner Broadcasting. "Already in the can, and on the screen, are films about a joint United States-Soviet assault upon a mountain in the Caucasus — timed to be shown during the recent Reagan/Gorbachev summit meeting — and a two-hour documentary on Our Finite World."

According to Thomas Belford, the Washington-based Executive Director of Better World, the society's programmes differ from issue programmes on commercial networks or public service broadcasting by being hopeful. "Better World believes that individuals, and individual nations, can make a difference. We hope our programmes will show people how they can get personally involved and be effective on global survival issues."

"On Better World programmes, viewers will see solution — not just a lot of handwringing," he added — People Feature.

## Building a better vegetable becoming big business

By Catherine Armit  
Reuter

BOSTON — After years of promise, a handful of futuristic biotechnology companies working with some food industry giants are starting to make profits by building a better vegetable — one nature never knew.

Tastier tomatoes, salt- and butter-flavoured popcorn, fast-blooming flowers and perfectly shaped potatoes are just a few of the space age plants being developed by agri-technology companies.

One of the first of the new foods, now being test-marketed in certain parts of the United States, is Vegimax, billed as the perfect celery stick.

Vegimax, designed by DNA Plant Technologies Corp (DNAP) and marketed by Kraft Foods, is supposed to retain its flavour, bright green colour and crispness for weeks instead of days and is free of the strings in conventional celery that wedge between the teeth.

It is an example of a product which analysts said could offer the most promise for agri-technology — that is, aimed not so much at the farmer searching for a disease-resistant crop as at the consumer looking for a new kind of food.

Some companies have developed disease-resistant sugar cane and tobacco plants, among other crops, but they are competing with some well-entrenched pesticides.

"There are so many other competing technologies for fighting fungus or disease, most of which can be applied in the field at a lower cost," than planting a seed produced in a laboratory, said Dr. George Kidd, agricultural consultant with L. William Teweles Associates.

For biotechnology companies to really make their mark, the case can be made that an alteration in consumer appeal is much more desirable than a seed that is beneficial to the farmer," Kidd said. Vegimax was produced through a type of asexual reproduction known as somaclonal variation, where cells cultivated under spe-

cial conditions in the laboratory grow into plants that exhibit unique traits.

Biologists have been manipulating plant cells in the laboratory since 1978, when the Max Planck Institute in West Germany produced a plant that grew tomatoes above ground and potatoes below ground.

The "pomato," as it was called, produced only tiny, sterile fruits and vegetables and the agri-technology industry did little better for several years. But in the last year commercially viable products have started to emerge from the lab.

Consultants L. William Teweles project that demand in the United States alone for seeds derived from somaclonal variation will jump from about \$8 million last year to \$190 million in 1990.

The potential for food processing companies could be even greater if they convince consumers to buy their new products. "When you think about it, the food companies all spend the same amount on advertising, on packaging, on traditional engineering of products," said Kidd.

"There is very little additional leverage they can gain from those areas. They have to find a new way to completely change the product to gain market share, rather than rely on differentiation between one package and another."

DNAP specifically aims what president Richard Laster calls its "value-added plant-based products" at consumers and food processors.

Founded in 1981 by two former Campbell Soup scientists, DNAP has research and development contracts with American Home Foods, CPC International, General Foods and Brown and Williamson Tobacco Incorporated.

Besides Vegimax, the company is also field testing a new tomato with Campbell that it hopes will grab a share of the \$500 million a year tomato-processing market.

The DNAP tomato is about six per cent solids, whereas processors today use a tomato that is 95 per cent water and only five per cent solids.











## 3 Soviet officials disciplined for failing to help Chernobyl evacuees

MOSCOW (R) — Three local officials have been disciplined for failing to take care of people evacuated from the Chernobyl nuclear power station, the Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda said Monday.

The three were leaders of a transport combine attached to the plant. "Yuzhatomenergostrans," and members of the ruling party.

For 10 days after the 200 workers in the unit, and their families, had been evacuated from the 30-kilometre zone round the radioactive plant, the officials did nothing to help them, Pravda said. "Wages were not given out on time, clothing was not handed out, they ignored the evacuees' legitimate requests," it said.

A. Stupoval, who had shown "a complete indifference" to the fate of the evacuees, was expelled from the ruling party, a severe blow to his career.

A. Sicharenko was given a strong reprimand, entered on his party card, also a career setback. Pravda did not give details of the punishment dealt out to the third official, the head of the combine's party organisation, A. Gubsky.

The report appeared after top scientists heading the Chernobyl clean-up operation declared that

the danger of a new explosion in the damaged reactor's radioactive core was over.

Members of the Communist Party, the only political party permitted in the Soviet Union, are expected to take a lead in dealing with the country's problems and show higher standards of behaviour than non-members.

"The unusual, complicated situation showed up some shortcomings," Pravda said. "Some leaders turned out to be psychologically unprepared for work in the conditions caused by the accident in the atomic power station."

The report, from two Pravda correspondents in the Kiev region, contrasted strongly with most of the reporting of the disaster in the Soviet state media.

Correspondents have dwelt on the heroism and selflessness of the officials, fire-fighters, doctors, drivers, and others dealing with the consequences of the April 26 accident.

The 84,000 evacuees, removed

from the zone in two stages on April 27 and May 2-4, were said to be well cared for.

Reports said all were given close medical attention, accommodation and basic necessities, adults were given temporary jobs, and children taken into local schools, before being sent to holiday camps.

Some hints of shortcomings, however, have appeared. Last Wednesday the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya quoted the Kiev region party boss as saying some people had shirked their responsibilities in dealing with the disaster.

Monday's Pravda article, however, was the first to denounce people by name. Western diplomats said it was in line with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of more open reporting in the media, which was notable by its absence after the reactor fire broke out.

Pravda stressed that the failures of leadership were an exception and cited instances of bravery.

Alexander Gamanuk, party leader in the power station settlement of Pripyat, was in hospital when the accident happened, but immediately left his bed to help lead operations.

Pravda also published the dearest photograph yet of the dam-

## Tutu attacks S. African press

VIENNA, Austria (Agencies) — Bishop Desmond Tutu said Monday that most white-controlled South African newspapers try to "shield white readers from the realities" of the conflict over apartheid, in order to make money. The South African press "has sold its soul in exchange for immediate realisable advantages, mainly financial ones, which go hand-in-glove with popularity in the white community," Tutu said.

The Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, a leading campaigner for black-majority rights and the 1984 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, said in a speech delivered at the opening of the General Assembly of the International Press Institute, a London-based organisation that seeks to promote press freedom.

More than 300 editors, publishers and broadcasters from the West and the Third World have gathered for three days of discussions on issues of news coverage around the world.

Tutu referred to South Africa's two English-language and two Afrikaans-language newspaper groups, all independently owned, and to the South African Broadcasting Corp., which he described as "a lickspittle sycophant of the government."

On the whole, Tutu said, the South African press "is a great deal freer than in most other parts of the African continent," and has "often been a vigorous champion of human rights." He said this was a "deliberately cultivated aberration by the South African authorities, who have wanted the outside world to believe that things were not so bad in South Africa."

But Tutu said news media have failed in a larger task — to bridge the gap in understanding between whites and blacks in a deeply divided society.

He said a few newspapers that tried to cover black views and shake whites out of their complacency, including the Rand Daily Mail, Sunday Express and the Cape Times, have either stopped publishing or are in danger of closing.

### Fresh violence erupts

South African police said Monday they shot dead a black man in overnight unrest and state-run radio hinted at a fresh security crackdown to prevent "total anarchy."

Police said a black policeman who was being attacked with petrol bombs killed one of the assailants at Kuitson township in the western Transvaal. He was the eighth man to die in widespread protests over the weekend.

Another man was seriously injured during fighting between rival groups in the township.

Harsh security force measures, including a seven-month state of emergency lifted last year, have failed to end the mass protests which have claimed over 1,500 lives since February 1984.

A commentary on Radio South Africa, which invariably reflects government thinking, said violent tactics of black activists were fuelling anger among white right-wing radicals. "Clearly, effective security action, backed by enabling measures, will now have to be taken in the interests of the vast majority of South Africans, if this two-edged threat of total anarchy is to be avoided," the radio said.

The warning followed a massive weekend security sweep in Alexandra township and tension triggered by the death of three black youths at Diepkloof near Johannesburg.

## Gandhi promotes Sikh in cabinet reshuffle

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi promoted a Sikh to India's top security job of Home (interior) minister in a major cabinet reshuffle Monday.

Mr. Gandhi, whose government is battling Sikh separatist extremists in northern Punjab state, moved Agriculture Minister Buta Singh to the Home Ministry which deals with the police and internal security.

He also dropped External Affairs Minister Bali Ram Bhagat from the newly expanded cabinet.

A Home Ministry official said Mr. Singh's appointment would strengthen the position of the ministry's number two, Arun Nehru, Mr. Gandhi's cousin who is in charge of internal security.

The official, who asked not to be named, said Mr. Singh would not be able to deal directly with Punjab, India's biggest internal security problem, because no Sikh would talk to him.

Mr. Singh was a minister in June 1984 when late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered the Indian army into the Sikh's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, to dislodge extremists.

The five Sikh head priests accused him of being party to the raid which outraged many of India's 14 million Sikhs. They declared him a sinner and ordered all Sikhs to ostracise him, the first step towards full excommunication.

Mr. Singh, who opposes demands for a separate Sikh nation, replaced veteran politician P.V. Narasimha Rao who remained in the cabinet as human resources minister.

The Home Ministry official said contact with Sikh leaders in Punjab would have to be through Mr. Nehru, whom Mr. Gandhi appointed to the new post of minister of state for internal security last September.

Mr. Nehru is one of several young politicians and officials who have shot to prominence since Mr. Gandhi took over from his assassinated mother Indira in October 1984.

Mr. Gandhi bought another Sikh, former Lower House Speaker G.S. Dhilon, into the cabinet to replace Mr. Singh as agriculture minister.

Political analysts saw the changes as an attempt to satisfy demands by moderate Sikhs for greater representation in the central government.

Mr. Gandhi named 11 new ministers and expanded the cabinet to increase representation from two other key states, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir.

He brought Mohammad Sayid, president of his Congress (I) Party in the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir, into the cabinet as tourism minister.

Muslim-majority Kashmir was placed under governor's rule last March when the state government resigned after Congress (I) withdrew its support. The state has since been rocked by Muslim-Hindu clashes.

In a surprise move, Mr. Gandhi dropped Foreign Minister Bali Ram Bhagat who was appointed last September in the first cabinet shakeup since the December 1984 general election.

Mr. Bhagat was replaced by Commerce Minister P. Shiv Shankar who also retained the commerce portfolio.

## Bangladesh asks India to send tribesmen home

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh has urged India to repatriate tribesmen who fled across the border to escape violence between tribal insurgents and settlers in Chittagong Hill Tracts district in the south of the country, officials said Monday.

More than 70 people have been killed this month in clashes between members of the tribal Shanti Bahini (peace force) guerrilla group and settlers in the 13,000 square kilometres of rugged hills and dense forests.

District officials said about 6,000 tribesmen had taken refuge in India. But a Dhaka official said Monday about 2,000 Chakma tribesmen had gone to India's north eastern Tripura state "to escape further violence at home."

"We have asked New Delhi to arrange repatriation of Bangladeshi tribesmen who have crossed into Tripura state and hope to get a reply soon," one official told reporters.

Bangladesh accuses India of providing training and arms to the Shanti Bahini rebels who have been fighting for 12 years for political autonomy for the district.

Officials at the Hill Tracts headquarters of Ranganathji told Reuters Sunday that the insurgents kidnapped 30 school teachers and local government officials on Saturday, signalling an apparent change in their strategy. They had previously attacked only troops and farmers.

Shanti Bahini opposed the resettlement in the district of more than 200,000 farmers from the over-crowded plains. In July 1984 they shot dead 200 settlers, wounded 1,000 others and razed hundreds of homes.

Shahid, a leader of Karachi's Bihari ethnic group, went on hunger strike on Thursday to press for the repatriation of Biharis stranded in Bangladesh since the country, formerly east Pakistan, won independence in 1971.

Authorities called in troops and imposed an indefinite curfew on four districts of Karachi after riots on Saturday between Biharis and Pashtuns from the North West Frontier.

Ten shops and 15 vehicles were set on fire during the disturbances and a bomb thrown at a police lorry wounded eight policemen.

The curfew was relaxed Monday to allow shopping but the authorities warned residents not to hurl stones at police.

Police twice resorted to tear gas in the curfew areas when some people stoned them.

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto accused police of failing in their responsibility to protect peaceful citizens. She demanded the immediate release of those arrested and urged police not to harass the people.

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## China to launch satellites for U.S.

PEKING (R) — China said Monday it would launch two U.S. communications satellites, moving to fill gaps in the commercial space business left by three major American launch failures this year.

China Daily said a Houston, Texas-based company Terastat, and China's Great Wall Industry Corporation, a division of the Ministry of Astronautics, had signed a memorandum of understanding to launch two satellites with China's Long March-3 rocket by December next year.

Terastat President Henry Schwartz said China's space programme had a "great track record" and Peking would earn a

considerable amount of foreign exchange for the launches but he gave no details.

The Palapa B and Westar VI satellites earmarked for Chinese launchers were recovered from faulty orbits in 1984 by the U.S. space shuttle, China Daily said.

The accord was announced as China boosted its space programme to earn scarce foreign currency and amid American gloom over three failures, including the Challenger shuttle disaster in January.

Europe's private space consortium ArianeSpace says it has signed a contract with Japan's Space Communications Corporation to launch two satellites in

### Police protest plans for commission in Palme case

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Police protested Monday about government plans to hold a commission of inquiry before the end of May to look into the so far unsuccessful investigation of Prime Minister Olof Palme's assassination.

In a statement published in the Stockholm daily Aftonbladet, Police Commissioner Hans Holmer, the head of the Palme investigation, said that a commission at this stage "in practice could burden the search."

He said that the investigation was being conducted with "great intensity" and that there were "no signs of a slackening" of efforts, although 10 weeks have passed since Mr. Palme was gunned down on a Stockholm street.

"No decisive tips or enlightening theories are to be expected from a commission," Mr. Holmer said.

Minister of Justice Sten Wickbom had announced on April 16, without specifying a date, that a commission "to have security and other issues illuminated" would be set up. It was important that the police's investigation should not be disturbed, Mr. Wickbom said.

Police spokesman Leif Hallberg said that the police were surprised to learn from press reports at the weekend that the setting up of the commission was imminent.

"It would have been better to let this examination wait until next fall. By then we probably can steel more time from the search," he said.

Police put 300 detectives, the largest special force in Swedish criminal history, on the Palme case. But no murder weapon was found and the only detained suspect was released in mid-March after witnesses failed to recognise him.

The 33-year-old Swede was confronted with more witnesses at the end of April in an effort the police said was to "straighten out question marks concerning the man."

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## Mulroney, Zhou discuss jailed priests

PEKING (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said he raised the plight of a group of jailed Roman Catholic priests during talks with the Chinese government Monday.

Mr. Mulroney told a news conference he dwelt almost entirely on human rights matters in a 30-minute meeting with Premier Zhou Ziyang at the end of his five-day China visit.

A group of elderly priests have been in prison in China since they were rearrested in the early 1980s. They are serving long terms for

defending papal authority and supporting an underground church.

Mr. Mulroney said his talks had been "direct, realistic and serious" although he said the Chinese traditionally saw such matters as being internal.

He said he expected further contacts between the two governments on human rights issues, and said he would also raise human rights questions with the South Korean government on the next stop of his Asian tour.

## Five killed by guerrilla landmine in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Five government workers were killed and one wounded when their vehicle detonated a landmine in northern Sri Lanka, the National Security Ministry said Monday.

The landmine blasted one of three vehicles in a convoy carrying employees of the Land Commissioner's Department who were working on an irrigation project at Saambakulam Sunday.

A ministry spokesman said it was the latest attack by guerrillas fighting government troops in northern and eastern areas in an effort to set up a separate state for minority Tamils.

The government has blamed the guerrillas for the deaths of 28 people killed in two bomb blasts in the capital Colombo over the past nine days.

Sixteen people, mostly foreign tourists, died when a bomb ripped through an Air Lanka plane on April 26 at Colombo airport. Last

Wednesday, another bomb rocked the Central Telegraph Office killing 12 people and wounding more than 100.

The government has warned the public against more bomb attacks. President Junius Jayewardene was quoted by a London newspaper Sunday as saying that his country would be partitioned like Cyprus if he did not receive more foreign aid to fight against Tamil guerrillas.

In Colombo, the state-run Daily News Monday quoted National Security Minister Lalith Athulathudumali as saying: "I have been to Britain. I was away for three nights." However, Mr. Athulathudumali did not give a reason for his mission to Britain.

Israeli experts are training Sri Lankan troops in anti-guerrilla intelligence gathering while former members of the British Special Air Services unit are providing anti-guerrilla training.

## Top-grade films fail to offset fears at Cannes festival

CANNES, France (R) — The opening days of the 1986 Cannes Film Festival have brought an unusually high-class crop of entries but fear of possible guerrilla violence have dimmed the customary glamour.

"Cannes is always one big non-stop party," a festival official said. "Only this year the guests of honour have not shown up."

He was referring to the widely publicised absence of Hollywood stars such as Rambo hero Sylvester Stallone amid fears of terrorist set off by last month's U.S.-Libyan confrontation and recent guerrilla attacks in Europe.

Some 30,000 people, out for fun or film business, have turned up for the 12-day festival ending on May 19.

And members of the 3,000-strong press corps in attendance say the 20 films competing for the Golden Palm Award are among the richest and most diverse in years.

But while the restaurants and seaside boulevards are crowded, the usual parades of marching girls and costumed bands have been cancelled for reasons of security.

"We have to play safe," said a city official. "It is unfortunate but we can't afford the danger presented by street shows and concerts."

The French navy has taken the danger of guerrilla attacks seriously enough to station a gunboat on full alert off Cannes.

Some big Hollywood names shunned the festival to express their resentment of what they called France's failure to support the U.S. air raids on Libya.

However Mayor Charlotte Sparado of Beverly Hills, home for numerous Hollywood celebrities, put in a prominent festival appearance.

## Film director plans to face sex charges in U.S.

CANNES, France (R) — Seven years after making his last film and eight after fleeing American courts, Polish director Roman Polanski says he will return to face sex charges in the United States.

The 52-year-old director, attending the Cannes Film Festival's worldwide launch of his new production Pirates, said he intended to turn himself in to clear up a 1978 charge of unlawful sexual intercourse with an under-age girl.

"I want to settle this legal problem but I have no intention of going to live there," he told Reuters in an interview.

Living in a Paris apartment off the Champs Elysees, Polanski walks each day to a studio where he has spent weeks putting the final touches to the \$30-million adventure film which opened this year's Cannes festival.

A project dreamed up a decade ago "to bring magic, adventure, entertainment, instead of the serious films with messages that were popular then," Polanski's Pirates is a swashbuckling 17th century saga set in the Caribbean.

Its ruthless peg-legged hero, Captain Red, played Walter Matthau, shares the main credits with one of the most expensive props

ever built for the cinema — an eight-million-dollar replica of a Spanish galleon.

Polanski's reputation for overspending, attributed to obsession with detail and a refusal to shoot in a studio when a real setting becomes available, is one of the reasons why it took him so long to get the project going.

Now he talks of it as a trial and says his next idea, a thriller, will be "something simple, not a costume film, and no special effects."

Polanski added bitterly: "Making a film is a continual struggle. The worst of it is the financial pressure. They're pressing you to get it finished in time when everything is working against you."

Shooting on the Mediterranean Sea off Tunisia, Polanski ran into the same snags of a rolling set and uncertain weather that he faced when making the film that brought him to world attention in 1962, Knife In The Water.

The Pirates galleon took two years to build. Then it was whipped about by winds, stopped by engine trouble, broke its anchor and was finally damaged in a collision with another ship.

Polanski said: "Originally you



Roman Polanski

have a desire to make a film you want to see on the screen. But when it's finished you've lost the pleasure of the spectator."

"It's like a frigid woman who chafes a pleasure and never gets satisfaction... I'm satisfied it's achieved. My work is to struggle and get it done. But I'd need some kind of magical potion to get the distance to know whether it's good."

Polanski visited the Cannes festival in 1977 during his first trip to the West. He loved it then but now prefers to stay cloistered in his suite in the town's most luxurious

hotel.

He avoids photographers of the type who drove him wild after the death of his wife Sharon Tate in savage Los Angeles murders.

Even in his hotel room he remains a target of fans wanting a sneak snapshot of the director, back in the limelight after years away from film.

Since making Tess, which won three Oscars, Polanski has written his autobiography and directed Peter Shaffer's stage play Amadeus in Paris and Warsaw. He plans to stage another play by Shaffer in Paris next year.

Polanski says he will never go in for films on social issues, is "scared of do-gooders" and believes "the world is sick with certainties."

Cannes critics gave a good reception to his film but praise fell short of that given to his somewhat similar comic adventure story, The Fearless Vampire Killers. Polanski brushed their opinions aside.

"They are not a real audience," he said. "They don't pay for their tickets. A person who really pays is a person who really wants to see a film."

## COLUMN

### Nightingales may be affected by Chernobyl fallout

HELSINKI (R) — High radioactivity has been found in migratory birds in Finland after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union and nightingales could be especially affected, a nature protection official said.

Finnish ornithologists have warned children not to pick up any dead birds they find, while officials said they feared radiation could enter the wildlife food chain as some migratory birds are caught and eaten by predatory birds.

Inspector Seppo Kotiranta of Turku Nature Protection Association told Reuters that birds netted for marking and inspection had flown through the area of fallout from Chernobyl before arriving in Finland.

Diana paints eyes on doll's head

TOKYO (R) — Princess Diana sampled the gamut of Japanese culture, first painting the eyes on a tiny doll's head and then playfully poking the belly of a quarter-ton Sumo wrestler. She and Prince Charles, on the first full day of their official tour of Japan, received a rapturous welcome from over 90,000 people who lined the streets to catch a glimpse of them.

Princess Diana then went barefoot to receive lessons in the gentle arts of flower-arranging and doll-making. She later joined her husband for the Sumo wrestling, sitting with him in the stadium's royal box which was used last month by Japanese Emperor Hirohito at the celebration of the 60th year of his reign.

Cat Stevens to return to singing

LONDON (R) — Former international pop star Cat Stevens, who quit the business, is planning a comeback to raise money for refugees fleeing the war in Afghanistan. "I have thought very deeply about making a new record based on indigenous Afghan songs," Stevens, who now goes by the name Yusuf Islam, told Reuters. "It would have to be a vocal song excluding the use of musical instruments to comply with the Islamic law." He said the song would be in English to ensure a wider potential market. Revenues would be donated to the Afghan refugees.

Intruder steals queen's land rover

LONDON (R) — An intruder stole one of Queen Elizabeth's land rovers from garages attached to Buckingham Palace before dawn on Thursday, causing a security scare. Police said Monday that security at the palace had not been breached and the man was later arrested. However, the Daily Mail newspaper said the incident raised fears that a guerrilla could have planted a bomb in palace vehicles. Police said the man walked into the palace mews, where the queen's horses and vehicles are housed, and drove off in the land rover. "There was no breach of security. The royal mews do not fall within the security area of Buckingham Palace," a spokeswoman told Reuters. Informed sources said police thought the intruder was a genuine staff member allowed access to the vehicles. The palace refused to comment, saying it did not discuss security matters. Security in Britain, including royal protection, has been stepped up to counter threats of guerrilla attack. Security at the palace was tightened in 1982 after a man wandered into Queen Elizabeth's bedroom and sat on the end of her bed telling her his troubles.

Archaeologists find town called bear

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet archaeologists have found a previously unknown ancient Russian town called Medved (bear), the official news agency TASS reported Sunday. The town, in the Kilin region north of Moscow, was built by a Finno-Ugric tribe called the Merya in the 11th century but was never mentioned in chronicles, TASS said. In the later Middle Ages, settlers from nearby Novgorod, then the capital of Russian lands stretching from the Baltic Sea